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COMMENT OF THE DAY

HK Trade

THE trade returns for the first quarter give Hongkong little cause for hoping that the final figures for 1954 are going to show any appreciable improvement over last year's. Assuming there is no deterioration in the Far Eastern situation, a none too cynical forecast is that last year's trading results might well form the basic pattern of our trade for some time to come. In any consideration of the economy in the future it is essential to understand that however great the need to remove trade restrictions to improve the overall trade picture, in the case of China the embargo is going to stay in force until the end of this year at the very least. The United States has made that quite clear, not only by the compromise reached with Western nations recently to allow increased East-West trade in the European sphere to compensate for the loss of the China trade, but by its avowed intention to persist with the embargo against China and North Korea until there is proof that these countries have given up their aggressive intentions. This is a bleak prospect for Hongkong but until the embargo is lifted the Colony has to do as much as possible to promote local exports for the preservation of a sound economy.

THE Hon. C. Blaker's comprehensive analysis of Hongkong's trade position on Tuesday contained a number of important points. Having noted the setback in trade with Indonesia he said "this (situation) may lead our shippers to seek more widespread markets so that a decline in one area will not have such a marked effect upon our economic well-being." The decline in our exports to Indonesia was not the only setback last year. There were considerable declines in exports to Malaysia, USA, Thailand and Pakistan, to mention just a few. Mr. Blaker has correctly stated that Hongkong manufacturers should attempt to secure wider markets for their goods but this involves maintenance of existing established markets—the backbone of our export trade—as well as the cultivation of other small but potentially valuable markets, particularly in the Far East. Mr. Blaker also defended Hongkong's participation in trade fairs and said "every opportunity should be seized to show the Colony's wares in overseas markets not only with a view to orders but also to establish in the overseas mind a proper appreciation of the Colony and its products."

IF there is a need to develop markets there is also a definite need to give wide publicity to Hongkong's products. It might be argued too that it is not enough for Hongkong to have resident foreign and Commonwealth trade commissioners in the Colony but that even more should be done by Government, the newly-formed Trade Promotion Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce, as well as the Chambers of Commerce and the Chinese manufacturers to acquaint neighbouring nations with the possibilities inherent in trade with Hongkong. To this extent closer consideration might profitably be given to the proposal that a trade mission representative of Hongkong industry should make periodic tours in the Far East and even further afield to seek more trade. For sooner or later there will be an improvement in the exchange position of Indonesia and Thailand, and the adverse trade position in Italy which will result in renewed demand for imported goods and Hongkong cannot afford to miss these orders.

Dien Bien Phu Situation Becoming Critical

24-Hour Strike Ordered

Paris, Apr. 21. Communist and Catholic railwaymen's unions today ordered their members—80 per cent of French railway workers—to strike for 24 hours at midnight on April 22.

The walkout is expected to paralyze the bulk of rail traffic throughout the country.

This follows the general strike call for April 23 by the Communist-led General Confederation of Labour and the Catholic Trade Union Federation earlier this month.

They are demanding an increase in the minimum wage from 23,000 francs (about 23 sterling) to 25,166 francs (about 25 sterling) a month.—Reuter.

Ship With Perpetual Passenger

Genoa, Apr. 21. The French trans-Atlantic liner, *Bretagne*, sailed for South America today and there in his prison-cabin was its perpetual passenger—man-without-a-country Nicolas Levitsky.

It was the 15th time Levitsky had sailed from Genoa aboard the *Bretagne* but did not expect it would be the last.

A former cabin-mate of "perpetual traveller" Michael Patrick O'Brien, Levitsky has no passport nor papers and no country will let him land.

As the French steamer pulled away with Levitsky locked securely in his nine-by-six foot cabin, he marked up another tally on his personal chart that notes the ship's brief stopovers at Marseilles, Genoa, Naples, Barcelona, Dakar, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Montevideo and Buenos Aires.—United Press.

Brave Nurse Very Ill

Reading, Apr. 21. A nursing sister who single-handedly rescued 13 new-born babies from a maternity home blaze here on Easter Sunday was still too ill today to be told that only two of the infants had survived.

Sister Freda Holland was badly burned as she carried the choking babies from their cots in the smoke-filled nursery.

Her condition after a skin-grafting operation was "greatly improved," doctors said today.

A team of doctors and nurses fought today to save the survivors—only two weeks old, the only one a few days.

The chief children's specialist at the Royal Berkshire Hospital here, Dr J. J. Kempton, said this morning the two babies, a boy and a girl, had a good sporting chance of recovery.—China Mail Special.

Ex-North Korean Minister Said Hiding In Tokyo

Seoul, Apr. 21. Former North Korean deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Pak Hun Nyung, who was purged last August, escaped and made his way to Japan, a defected Communist army officer claimed today.

Leo Wan Bong, who held the rank of captain in both the Chinese and Korean Red armies and defected to the south in February, said the former No. 2 man of North Korea fled by sea along with 10 supporters and prison guards.

He said Pak is now in exile, probably in Tokyo, hidden and protected by "Choren," the Korean Communist organization there.

South Korean officials said they could not confirm Leo's report.

Pak was purged from his government and party posts, according to Leo, when he tried to compete with "dictator" Kim Il Sung. He was indicted but

VIOLENT FIGHTING NEAR FORTRESS Urgent Appeal By General Castries

Hanoi, Apr. 21. Vietminh shock troops concentrated heavy fire against a French forward position commanding the fort's crippled airfield today as the defenders' position steadily worsened.

Four days of bad weather cut the life-giving aerial support badly. Brig-Gen. Christian de Castries appealed to headquarters to maintain the airlift of vital supplies and men no matter what the price.

Winging to the aid of the weakened garrison from France were huge US Air Force double-decker transports rushing French paratroop reinforcements. It was described as the longest military airlift ever established for organized combat units.

The troops—some 600 crack colonial infantry of the Seventh Commando Parachute Battalion—were expected here tomorrow. They left Paris' Orly Field late Monday after the French government appealed to Washington for emergency aid in ferrying badly-needed men to stem the Communist push.

The chutneys will be transferred to French-managed planes and dropped to Dien Bien Phu or else used to free other airborne units already in Indo-China for action at Dien Bien Phu.

The High Command said Red soldiers drastically tightened their hold most of the way around the little post situated on the northwest side of the airstrip. The tarmac already is one-quarter held by the Reds.

Violent fighting continued today but Headquarters said at nightfall that there had not yet been any direct assault.

The rebel move seemed part of General Vo Nguyen Giap's new tactics of strangling off the French forces—first by post and strong-point, then by strong-point.

The steady weakening would gradually lay open the core of the fort.

TIGHTLY PACKED

Other factors worked against the 11,000 defenders now tightly packed in a little circle, less than three-quarters of a square mile in area. The position is so small that some headquarters mathematicians calculated two men are on each square yard since much terrain is taken up by big mine-fields and barbed wire entanglements.

The main factors were: 1. The attacking of men and material is growing steadily harder as the bastion shrinks and the weather clouds up for the monsoon downpours. Although the French have perfected an air and ground controlled instrument allowing precision drops despite poor visibility, it was considered unlikely the French could keep pumping in the 200 tons of supplies needed daily without a large increase in air power.

RADIOPHONE TALK

General de Castries, in a radio-phone talk with General Rene Cogny, his superior and Northern Front commander, emphasized that the airlift must be maintained no matter what the sacrifice, if the garrison is to continue. He also appealed to the population of Hanoi to contribute tinned milk and fruit juice to ease the suffering of the wounded. The contributions will be parachuted to the defenders.

Piercing the clouds and dodging accurate ack-ack fire, planes managed last night to drop more men. Each day Dien Bien Phu reports its losses and what specialties are needed and the men are assembled from among hundreds of volunteers for dropping.—United Press.

VIETMINH AMBUSH

Hanoi, Apr. 21. Heavy fighting took place between approximately two Vietminh battalions and French-Vietnam units, following a Vietminh ambush at a very vulnerable point of the road and railway linking Hanoi with Haiphong.

The ambush which took place amidst increased Vietminh activity against Vietnam communication lines between Haiphong and Hanoi and Dien Bien Phu was set at a point some 13 miles east of Hanoi where the railway track leaves the road to cross the paddy fields. This requires the French Union troops to double their security lines for some 30 miles.

Many French Union troops were wounded during today's fighting the specific results of which were not made known by the French Command.—France Press.

Strong Earthquake

Lima, Peru, Apr. 21. A strong earthquake of most duration was felt here at 2:25 p.m. today.—United Press.

Border Guards Shoot Woman

Berlin, Apr. 21. Armed Communist border guards today shot an unidentified woman and fired at a German motorcyclist with tommy-guns near the West Berlin border. West Berlin police announced.

The police said the woman was hit and collapsed, while the motorcyclist, speeding past the shooting scene, escaped.

The shooting, reported to the police by the motorcyclist, took place at the Berlin end of the 110-mile superhighway from Berlin to the West where it runs through a short stretch of East German territory between the Allied highway checkpoint and the West Berlin border, the police said.—United Press.

Tito Elated Over Visit New Agreements With Turkey

Belgrade, Apr. 21. President Tito returned today from an "extraordinarily successful" State visit to Turkey that tightened links between the Balkan nation and NATO's Easternmost partner.

Marshal Tito stepped onto Yugoslav soil from the deck of the Yugoslav Navy training ship, *Galeb* (Seagull) at 8.10 this morning at Split and told cheering thousands that his mission to Turkey had achieved "much more than we expected."

He said his party had been "very happily surprised" to find that in Turkey "the entire country... just its leaders, prepared a tremendous welcome for us, a welcome such as we never experienced anywhere else."

"During the whole trip peasants, workers and citizens greeted us with joyful faces, seeing in us their real friends," he said. "It was not hard for us to agree with the Turkish leaders on all problems of international policy and of the relations between us... our cooperation in the economic, political and defence" (this word he especially stressed) "fields will be greatly broadened."

He said this co-operation was achieved "despite the opposition of all those in the world who do not want to see concord between allies, who do not like to see two peoples living together in peace and friendship."

"In our allies the Turks," he added, "we have found friends who will never allow themselves to be deflected by any kind of machinations from their determination to maintain their independence, their freedom and their peaceful development."

Before mounting the special platform prepared for his brief speech, Marshal Tito said goodbye formally to Vice-Admiral Jerkovic, commander of the Yugoslav Navy which had just completed its fortnight's mission by bringing him safely home. He was welcomed by the President of the Croatian Parliament, Vladimir Bakarić, on behalf of the Republic of Croatia, to which the city of Split belongs.

The city's population learned yesterday morning that President Tito would land there today and spent the whole day decorating the city for his arrival.

Tito will travel to Belgrade by train from Split and will probably make a major speech at the Belgrade railway station tomorrow.—United Press.

Mau Mau Chief Executed

Nairobi, Apr. 21. Self-styled Mau Mau Brigadier Karari, son of Karanja, who claimed he commanded the Hukahuka company of terrorists under General China, was executed in Nairobi today for unlawful possession of firearms.

Five other Africans were executed along with him on the same charge.—France Press.

Mrs Petrov Flies From Darwin To Join Her Husband In Hiding Place

Darwin, Apr. 22. Mrs Evokiya Petrov, heavily veiled, flew from here at 3 a.m. today in an Australian Dakota to join her refugee husband, Vladimir, in his secret hiding place in South Australia.

A police car drove her in teeming rain to the airport. The destination of the plane was not disclosed.

The Dakota, one which had been held as a standby during the Royal visit to Australia, arrived at Darwin Airport late at night under secret orders and the pilot refused to answer any questions.

GENEVA TALKS Barbed Wire To Protect Delegates

Geneva, Apr. 21. Swiss troops today began erecting two rows of barbed wire entanglements round the villas which the Soviet, Chinese and North Korean Foreign Ministers will occupy during the Geneva conference.

The three villas are about four miles from Geneva, near the Lakes de Villeneuve and de Versoix, which looks as if it is being prepared to withstand a siege.

The soldiers started work with five railway wagon loads of barbed wire, of which several miles will be needed.

A fourth villa near Versoix will be used by the French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, who is not expected to be given such elaborate "defence" measures.

Several hundred Swiss troops will guard roads and buildings during the conference, which begins on Monday.

There will also be 240 security policemen with a fleet of fast cars at their disposal.

Six Russian planes landed here today bringing more staff and freight for the Soviet, Chinese and North Korean delegations.

Two flew on the regular Soviet airlift from East Berlin, which began last week, and the others from Moscow.—Reuter.

NO SECRETARIAT Geneva, Apr. 21.

With the opening of the Geneva conference only five days away, there is still no authority here who knows when the meeting will start or how the world press will have access to the deliberations of the 19 nations taking part.

There is no Secretariat for the conference. There is no translating staff available to handle the big job of translation into the five official languages. There are no arrangements at all for the distribution of documents, and the press centre here, from which press reporters from many countries will be working, is still unfinished.

"Without exception, this is one of the most amazing conferences I have ever witnessed," was the description applied to the arrangements today by a high ranking official of the United Nations.

"I have just been told," he said, "that there is to be an extremely involved system of semi-simultaneous translation which need a squad of at least 40 translators. We have eight here in Geneva."

"Two of the five official languages are oriental, for which it is hard enough to find translators. So far as I know, there are no trained interpreters for Korean."

The five official languages for the conference are English, French, Russian, Chinese and Korean.

"DILATORY"

The same United Nations spokesman said he might be able to get more translators from New York, but even so it was problematical whether there would be enough.

There is implied criticism in many quarters in Geneva also of the "dilatory" way in which advance arrangements for the conference were being drafted by the different foreign offices.

Mr Henry Stuydam, head of the news division of the American State Department, is due here tomorrow (Thursday) but no press officials from the British or French Foreign Offices are expected in Geneva until after the NATO meeting in Paris.

When the matter of access to press is fully left until the last moment.—China Mail Special.

Election Budget

Dublin, Apr. 21. Mr Eamon de Valera's Fianna Fail Government, which leaves office on Saturday, presented its election budget today, cutting the tax on bread and beer and increasing income tax allowances for children.

Parliament, the Dail, dissolves on Saturday for a general election on May 18.

Mr Seán Macentee, Finance Minister, said the year had been one of the most prosperous in Eire's history, with the cost of living falling and prices "smoothed out." But he said, the end of meat rationing in Britain—due this summer—faced them with a new situation in a more competitive market.

He reduced the tax on beer by eight shillings and dimes a 30-gallon barrel, and bread by a halfpenny a two-pound loaf from May 1.

Income tax stays unchanged, but with an increased personal allowance and increased child allowance.

Mr Macentee also said stamp duties were being modified to help buyers of houses valued under 2,500 sterling.—Reuter.

Husband's Right To Use Force

Santiago De Chile, Apr. 21. A husband's right to use force on his wife—even firing a few bullets into the furniture to emphasize his arguments—was upheld by the Santiago Court of Appeal.

It reversed a lower court decision in the wife's favour after she had complained that her husband had suddenly appeared at a political rally, seized her by the arm and dragged her off home away from her male escort.

The husband was then fined 200 pesos (about 15 shillings sterling) but he had since spent a small fortune in legal fees fighting for his rights in the Chilean courts.

"The woman's obligation to obey her husband implies also the husband's right to impose obedience and adopt any attitude to achieve this by all proper legal means he may deem adequate," the court stated.—China Mail Special.

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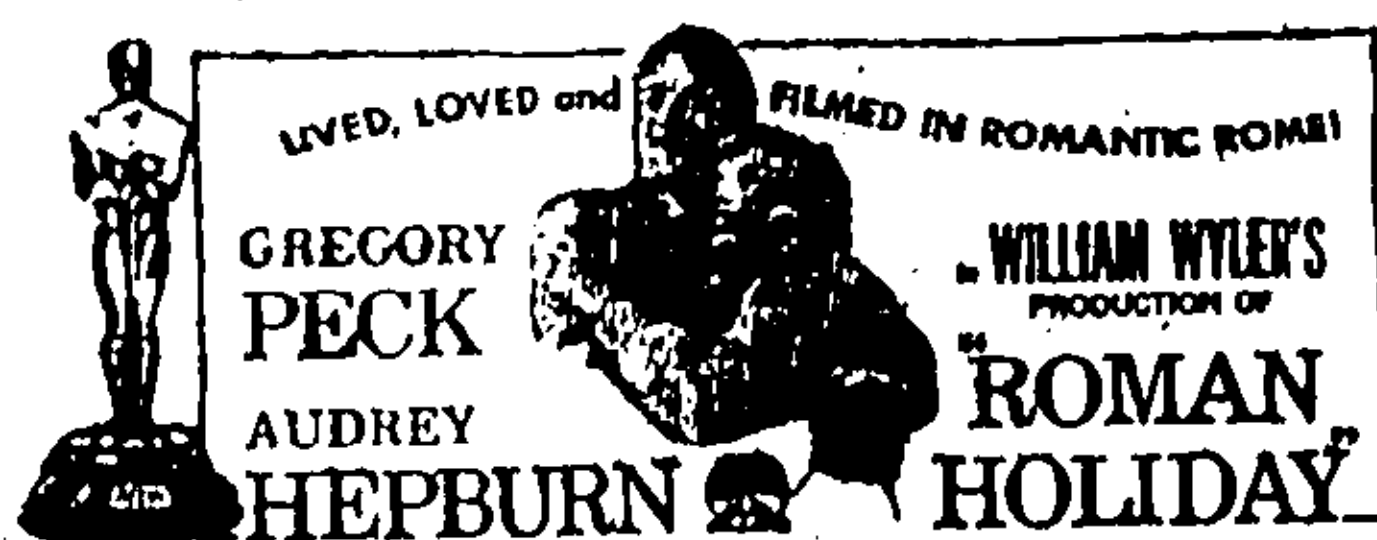
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4 SHOWS TO-DAY

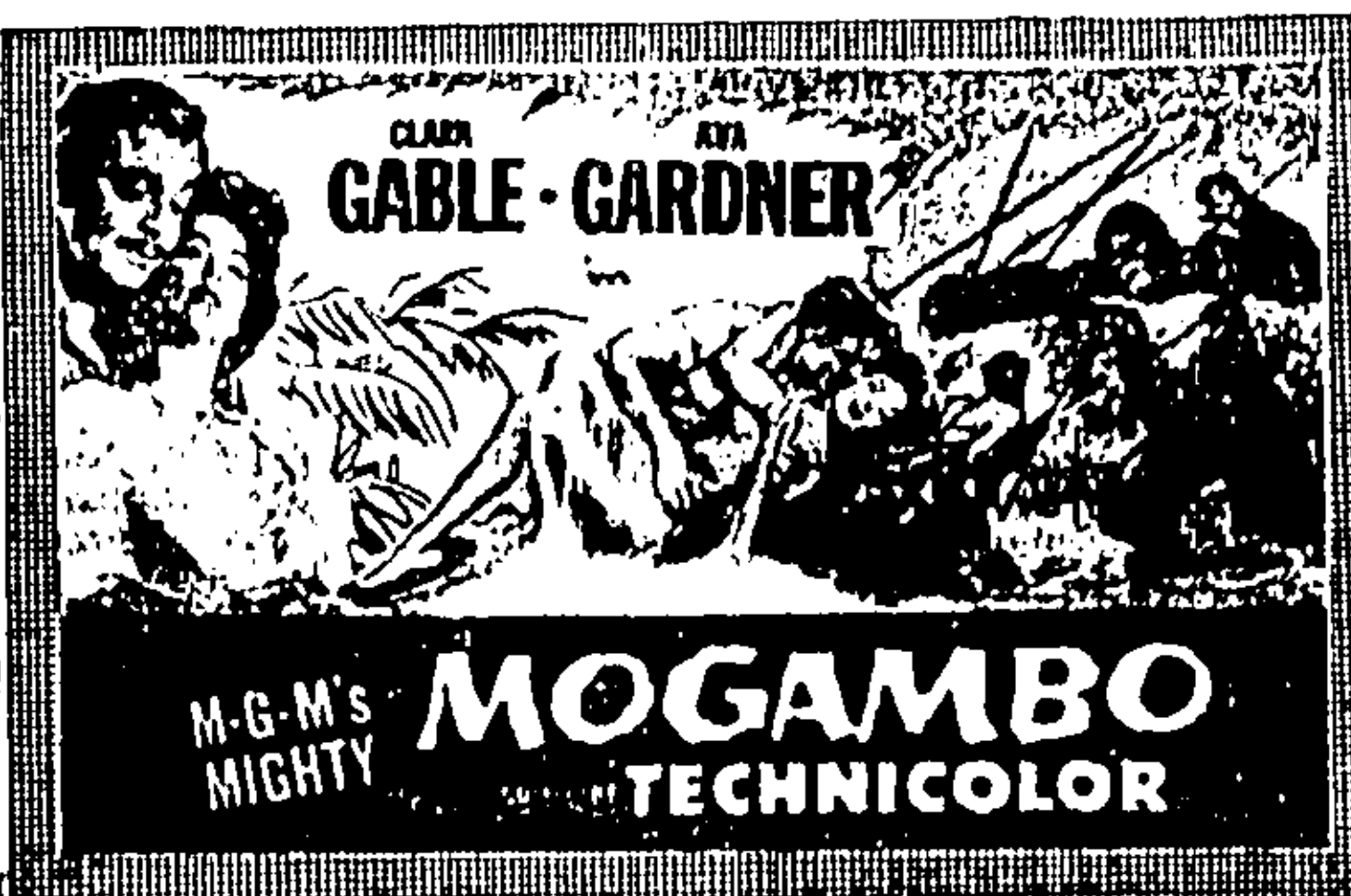


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SHOWING TO-DAY **MAJESTIC** AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



SOCIALISTS COMPLAIN IN INDONESIA

Discrimination In Favour Of Communists Charge

Djakarta, Apr. 21.

Indonesia's opposition Socialist Party today accused the Government of discriminating against Socialists who wanted to travel to Indonesia for the Asian Socialist conference in favour of Communists who have recently visited the country for other conferences.

Government sources later denied the charge saying they imposed restrictions only on Israeli delegates whose entry into Indonesia might offend Middle East Muslim countries which Indonesia regards as friends.

Last week the Asian Socialist conference announced that the 1954 Asian Socialist conference would now be held in Burma. It is believed the switch was made because of the obstacles raised by Indonesian entry restrictions.

The Socialist Party claimed today that delegates from France, Yugoslavia and from the Vietnamese Socialist Party had most difficulty in trying to get visas for Indonesia.

The Foreign Ministry in a reply said today that the charges were "trumped up". The Department had done all possible to help the entry into

Indonesia of a Burmese Cabinet Minister and a Yugoslav Ambassador who were among the delegates and guests.

Unofficial sources in Djakarta today pointed out that the Indonesian Government has recently taken many steps against the Socialist opposition who represent mainly a group of intellectuals in the universities and in the civil service.

SOCIALISTS DISMISSED

A number of Socialists, who were in high positions, have been dismissed, the latest being Mr Sudarsono, a high official in the Foreign Ministry, and a former leader of the Provisional Indonesian Government during revolutionary times.

The Socialist leader and former Prime Minister, Sultan Sjahrir, today said the Party protested against the Government attitude. He said the Government attitude, towards totalitarian states — specifically Communist ones — has been much more friendly.

Mr Sjahrir said delegates of the Cominform have visited Indonesia several times and recently an Australian Communist, Mr A. L. Aarons even addressed a mass meeting of the Indonesian Communist party.

A delegation of East German traders recently arrived in Djakarta. The Socialists said there are not yet official relations between Indonesia and that country. The rest of the world and especially Indonesia's Asian friends will get the impression that the meeting of the Asian Socialist conference in Indonesia was impossible because the Government seemed to be inclined towards the Cominform Socialist Party.

Socialist super Pedoman, one of Indonesia's most influential papers, today condemned the Government for allowing many Communist representatives to enter the country for conferences which had no connection whatsoever with Asian co-operation.

Meanwhile a leader of the moderate Moslem Party, "the Muslimin", which although in opposition, is probably the strongest Indonesian political organisation "wondered why" the Communists had been given the chance to visit Indonesia and to deliver political speeches.

He said he was surprised the Government would not allow Socialists to enter. —Reuter.

Petrol River Runs Under This Hotel

London, Apr. 21.

Petrol has taken the place of water in a little stream that runs under the cellar of the Queen Victoria Hotel at Rushden, Northamptonshire, England.

The guests were evacuated last week and the hotel closed — all except the windows, which have been flung wide open to lessen the risk of explosion.

No one yet knows where the petrol has come from. Tests at all petrol stations in the area have failed to disclose a leak.

It began when two farmers in the bar grumbled to the manager, Mr Monty Davis, "What's up tonight? Beer tastes like petrol."

Soon it was not only the beer. The entire hotel smelled like a garage.

POLICEMAN POSTED

A fire-brigade officer lifted a manhole in the cellar and said: "There's more petrol down here than water."

That was enough. The six guests were found emergency accommodation at Wellingborough, four miles away, and a policeman posted at the door to warn intending customers. All fires were drawn.

Mr Davis, his wife, and their staff sat shivering in the cold. For two days now they have eaten only cold food. Even the beer has been taken back to the brewery to prevent contamination.

Japanese Cherry Trees For West Berlin

Berlin, Apr. 21.

A Japanese official today presented to the city of West Berlin 1,200 cherry trees as a gift from the Japanese people to the people of Berlin.

Mr Kyuji Tomonari, Attaché at the Japanese Embassy to West Germany, handed over the trees to the governing Mayor of West Berlin, Dr Walter Schreiber.

The trees will be planted in the Tiergarten Park, completely devastated during the war, but now almost completely rebuilt and newly planted.

The new park already has an "English Garden", a gift from England. —Reuter.

High-Speed Stage Leap



A high-speed action picture of Sylvia Barber as she appears in "Golden Idol" one of the many gay and colourful scenes in the latest edition of non-stop revue at The Windmill. —Central Press.

Religious Persecution And Murder On Celebes Island Alleged

Djakarta, Apr. 21.

Sensational reports of persecution of Christians on the Celebes Island points up once again one of the top problems facing the young Indonesian Government — internal security.

The latest furore was touched off by Tambunan, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and a leader of Parkindo, the Christian Protestant Party. He charged that guerilla bands in the southern section of the island had forced at least 6,500 believers in Christ to convert to the Moslem faith.

The bandits murdered two girls who refused to desert Christianity, Tambunan declared.

They burned Bibles, forced Christian women into marriage with guerillas, closed churches, converted others into Moslems and slaughtered hundreds of pigs, Tambunan said.

Most quarters in Djakarta agreed that while Tambunan's charges might be exaggerated they were based for the most part on facts.

But the situation was not as clear as Tambunan's accusations indicated.

A large area in the southern part of the Celebes is under bandit control. The villages there are isolated and defenceless. There is little contact with the Central Government.

At Djakarta, Communications and reports from that area are sometimes long delayed and distorted.

In addition, economic and other differences have set against each other large groups of people living there, according to well-informed sources.

Another factor is the hatred toward the Javanese people felt by some population groups of East Indonesia. This hatred back at least to the old Dutch plan of pre-1949 to set up independent states instead of a united Indonesia.

NOT TO BLAME

There is a tendency to blame everything on the Darul Islam, the fanatical Moslem organisation that seeks through force and violence to perpetuate a pure Moslem state throughout the far-flung islands of the Indonesian archipelago.

But if reports from the Celebes are correct the feared Darul Islam is not to blame this time.

Much of the area where the persecutions have been taking

place is under the control of an armed "independent" gang headed by Kahar Muzakkar. He has been identified as associated with the Darul Islam but most Djakarta quarters feel that he is not officially connected with the Moslem organisation. Musakkar is the self-styled ruler of the area.

Persecution of Christians in the Celebes is not new either. Last October the Christian population in Toraja appealed to the Government for weapons to defend themselves against bands operating under the flag of Darul Islam. The resolution was presented to President Soekarno during his visit to the Celebes.

About 400,000 Christians live in the large area where Musakkar started his wave of terror in 1951. Thousands of them have evacuated the "dangerous" villages.

The church community in Indonesia was talking about submitting a formal complaint on the situation to the World Council of Churches and the United Nations.

But the Government of Prime Minister Ali Sastroamidjojo feels that the crisis could best be dealt with internally without referring it to an international authority. —United Press.

China Mail Special.

Gold Medal Winner

London, Apr. 20.

A girl who ten years ago fled from Yugoslavia with the intention of becoming a nurse, Miss Maria Skobec, today won the annual gold medal as the best student at the West Middlesex Hospital, London.

Now 30, she spent over two years in a displaced persons camp in Italy and then worked as a domestic servant in England before getting her chance. —China Mail Special.

LEE Theatre GREAT WORLD

SHOWING TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.40 P.M.

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★ NEXT CHANGE ★



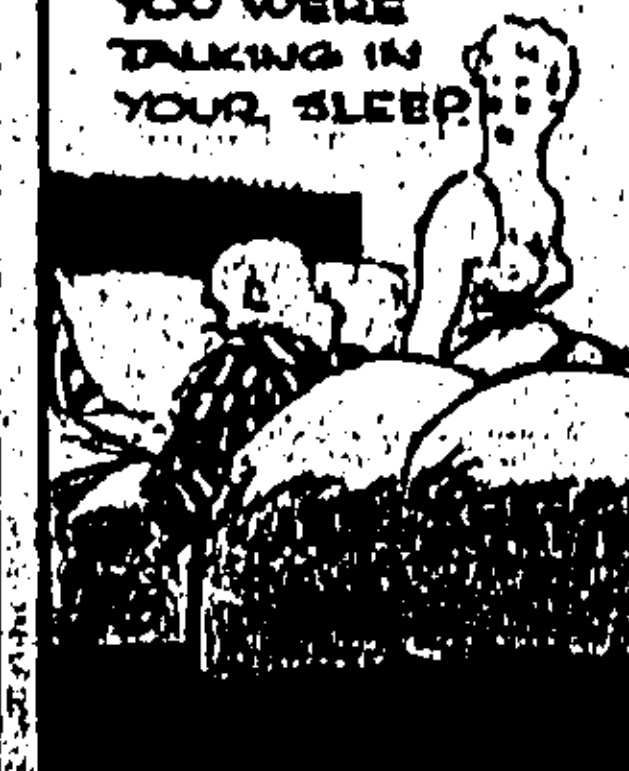
COMMENCING TO-MORROW



POP



YOU WERE TAKING IN YOUR SLEEP



OH - WHAT DID I SAY



Speak up



Don't strain your eyes



HONGKONG LIAISON

Moira Shearer Does The Charleston!



Even the dated steps of the Charleston achieve a new grace when they're danced by ballerina Moira Shearer and film star Patricia Cuthbert at Shepperton Studios, Middlesex. Moira danced the rage of the giddy 'twenties for a sequence of her new film 'The Man Who Loved Redheads'. Scene is an evening garden party in the year 1929.—Reuterphoto.

You'll Have To Be Quick To Escape An Atom Bomb Burn

New York, Apr. 21.

Anyone who can duck in one 25,000th of a second can be within the burning range of an exploding atomic bomb and still not be burned, an authoritative report on atomic bomb burns said today.

The initial flash of the exploding bomb causes no harm at the somewhat remote distances where "in only a fraction of a second, when the fire ball appears, within a 25,000th of a second, the burning heat is on. It stays on, however, for only five-hundredths of a second.

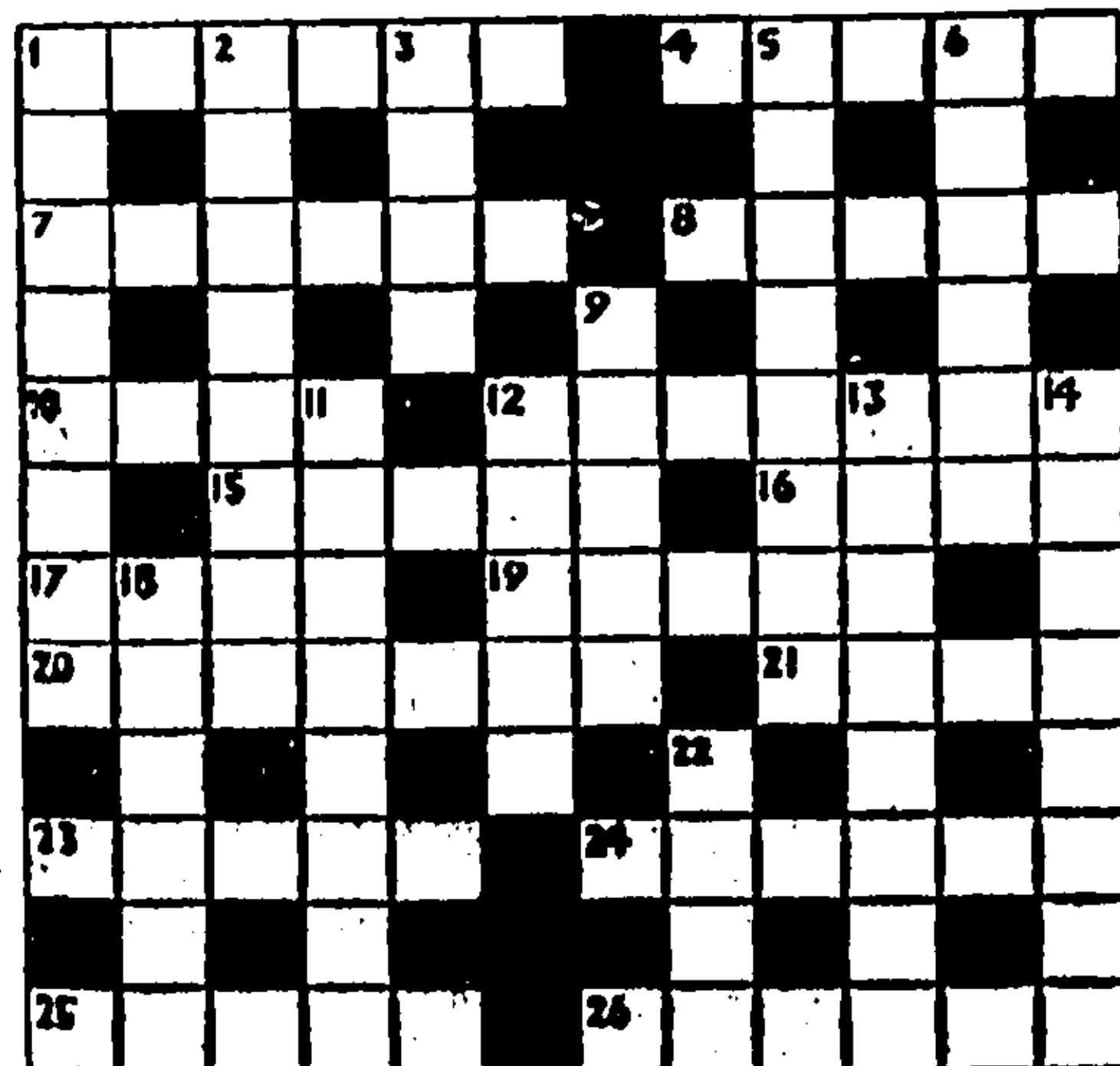
The unshielded animals were placed at 14 different distances from the explosion, all far enough to be beyond the killing radiation but close enough to be within the heat range.

The distances were not specified—they were stated as the distances calculated to produce from 10 calories to 42 calories per square centimetre of exposed skin. The entire heat is a measurement of heat. Only 7.1 calories won't burn, 43 will char.

The animals were behind shutters that restricted the area of burn. Some of the shutters were equipped with special no timers which closed them at various intervals measured in thousandths of seconds.

And some had filters that filtered out either ultra-violet light, infra-red light, or the visible part of the light spectrum.—United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Stick to (6).
- 4 Bedeck (6).
- 7 Imaginary (6).
- 8 Shun (6).
- 10 Proper (4).
- 12 Swells (7).
- 15 Plunked (5).
- 16 Experiment (6).
- 17 Ex-empire (4).
- 19 Measuring apparatus (5).
- 20 Legislator (7).
- 21 Let fall (4).
- 22 Correspond (6).
- 24 Fish (6).
- 25 Banquet (6).
- 26 Changes (6).

DOWN

- 1 Kind of ten-cakes (8).
- 2 Virago (6).
- 3 Peruse (4).
- 5 Turned aside (6).
- 6 Elevates (6).
- 8 Skimmed (6).
- 11 Supernatural events (6).
- 12 Evil spirit (6).
- 13 Dile (6).
- 14 Engraves with dots (6).
- 15 Sober (6).
- 22 Lofly (6).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: 3 Pinatone, 8 Torrid, 9 Relieved, 11 Released, 12 Hurt, 13 Depot, 18 Senor, 19 Pal, 22 Caprice, 24 Reveille, 25 Angler, 26 Sergeant. Down: 1 Storm, 2 Brill, 3 Finesse, 4 Deed, 5 Aged, 6 Craggy, 7 Bawdy, 10 Lamin, 14 Pagan, 15 Rhythm, 16 Spire, 17 Bitter, 20 Brawl, 21 Unw, 23 Cite, 24 Pile.

HARD TIMES FOR MALAYA'S REDS Terrorist Army Is Short Of Money

Kuala Lumpur, Apr. 21.

The Treasury of the Malayan Communist Party is feeling the pinch of hard times, Government sources said today.

The shortage of money and assets and the growing unwillingness of the public to contribute to the Communist cause is said to be shaking the stability of the 5,000-strong Communist "Malayan Liberation Army."

On the contrary, however, members of the Communist Central and State Committees forming the Party's underground high command, are known to carry large amounts of cash in gold bars to provide private luxuries in the jungle, the sources said.

The Federation of Malaya Government is making a bid to cut food and money reaching the terrorists in order to force them out of their jungle hideouts to surrender.

In the Malayan Communist Party, it is understood, ordered strict economy on expenses except for food. For this commodity the terrorists are prepared to pay high prices as they are hard hit by the Government's successful food denial operations.

The general decline in public property due to the fall in rubber prices is leading to increasing resistance among one-time sympathisers to pay Communist sub-scriptions.

The Malayan Communist Party is also believed to be losing heavily on private coaches of killed terrorist leaders. The board of Law, Kon, King, notorious "bearded terror" of the Suffolk Regiment in 1952, is still a mystery treasure in the district.

To avoid loss and destruction in the jungle, some terrorist chiefs are known to have converted their possessions into gold. An Ho, Secretary of the Negri Sembilan Communist State Committee, is known to carry

Churchill And Casey Confer On Geneva

London, Apr. 21.

The Australian Minister for External Affairs, Mr Richard Casey, today conferred for over 45 minutes with the Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, at No. 10 Downing Street.

Mr Casey is leaving for Paris tomorrow afternoon on his way to the Geneva Conference. The two statesmen were understood to have discussed the proposed Southeast Asian and West Pacific Defence Pact.

Earlier today Mr Casey and the Foreign Secretary, Mr Anthony Eden, conferred over the Indo-Chinese and Korean questions with the Canadian External Affairs Minister, Mr Lester Pearson.

A Foreign Office spokesman later declared that the talks had been useful and profitable. He said the three statesmen had reached a comparatively general agreement over these two problems which top the list of the forthcoming Geneva Conference, but that the approaches to the questions of relations with Communist China were slightly divergent.

It was believed that of all the Western nations, Canada was the most favourable to a compromise solution in Indo-China and in Korea, while Australia, owing to her geographical situation, which exposed her to a Chinese Communist threat, was attempting a more intransigent attitude.

The decision taken jointly with France and the United States to examine the possibility of setting up a Southeast Asian Defence Pact would somewhat restrict the freedom to manoeuvre of the British delegation.

It was believed that Canada might ask to participate in the negotiations for the setting up of such a pact.—United Press.

On his personal 1949-50 bar. Large sums recovered from the persons of dead terrorists are being paid into the Malayan treasury by the police and military "as return of Communist loot."

British planes are now scattering two million leaflets over the Malayan jungle challenging the terrorists to find out where "does all the money go."

"Un as you are mentally constituted, think about the fate of all sums extorted for the futile revolutionary leaders in Chinese declare.—Reuter

Has Djilas Left The Party?

Belgrade, Apr. 21.

Milovan Djilas, the dismissed Yugoslav leader, has submitted his resignation from the Communist Party, according to unconfirmed reports today.

The Party last January stripped him of all offices for his pro-Western bourgeois "revisionism," but allowed him to remain a Party member. Djilas lost his positions of President of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council, for expressing "heretical" views, and attacking privilege among Party leaders and their wives, in a series of press articles.

According to the unconfirmed reports, Djilas submitted his resignation after seeing a statement made last Monday by Bzyladimir Djedjler, his former friend and defender.

Djedjler, in the statement, announced his agreement with the dismissal of Djilas and his own intention of returning to political life.

President Tito has said that Djilas would never be allowed to return to public life. A Yugoslav Government spokesman said today he was unable to comment.—Reuter.

Japanese To Help Ceylon Rice Growers

Colombo, Apr. 21.

Three Japanese agricultural experts have arrived here to help the Ceylon Government to adopt Japanese methods of rice cultivation.

The experts have had one conference with the Ceylonese Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr J. R. Jayawardene, who later said he was so impressed with the suggested measures to improve rice production that he was planning to send three agricultural officers to Japan to make an advanced study of Japanese methods of rice cultivation.

Mr Jayawardene said that in addition to rice cultivation the three officers would also study the use of agricultural implements so that they could be introduced here.

The Minister said that a proposal made some time ago to get a few Japanese families to come to Ceylon to teach methods of Japanese rice growing had been dropped.—United Press.

To Test Snow For Radioactivity

Turin, Italy, Apr. 21.

Turin University's Institute of Nuclear Physics said today it would test snow which fell in late April in Northern Italy for the first time since 1938 to find out if the flakes were radioactive.

The Institute said it decided to run the tests after hundreds of Italians telephoned weather bureau asking if recent frock weather was caused by American hydrogen bomb tests.

Experts said, however, they thought that the snowfall was caused by "cold" winds, whirling in from the Russian steppes, meeting warmer currents sweeping in from the south.—United Press.

China's 7-Year Plan For Tibet

New Delhi, Apr. 21.

Road and air communications throughout Tibet are being developed rapidly under a seven-year plan being pushed ahead vigorously by the Chinese authorities in Tibet, according to reports reaching here today from Katmandu.

The reports say that four small and two large airports are already completed near the 500-mile-long Shigatse-Mannarover road, which has recently been built.

Mountainous areas round the two larger airports will be levelled off to make them safe for four-engine aircraft. Eight fair weather airports are also to be constructed.—Reuter.

Last Doubt Resolved, Says Lodge

US, UK Support OF EDC

New York, Apr. 21.

The United States representative in the United Nations, Mr Henry Cabot Lodge, today backed the European Army Treaty. He said a failure to establish the E.D.C. would be regarded by the Soviet Union as "a victory of epic proportions for her diplomacy and propaganda."

Mr Cabot Lodge, who is also President Eisenhower's political adviser, was speaking at a luncheon given in his honour here by the France-American Society.

He recalled that last week, the United States and Britain had given precise proof of their support of the E.D.C. in the form of solemn assurances that they would maintain armed forces in Europe as long as any threat remained in the North Atlantic area.

"Thus, there in Europe who have hesitated to support the concept of the European Defence Community because of lack of confidence in American and British support of the E.D.C. should have any last lingering doubt resolved," he said.

He warned, however, "but of course, we can only be there as part of a total European defence so intelligently organized that it would, in the tragic event of war, have a reasonable chance of success."

"We see no acceptable alternative to the E.D.C.," he said. "The E.D.C. offered the prospect of a stable and effective Europe—a military system which would permit a practicable defence of Central Europe towards which the United States and other non-European powers should make appreciable contribution."

The E.D.C., he stressed, was a military system, the control of which rested in the hands of all its members.

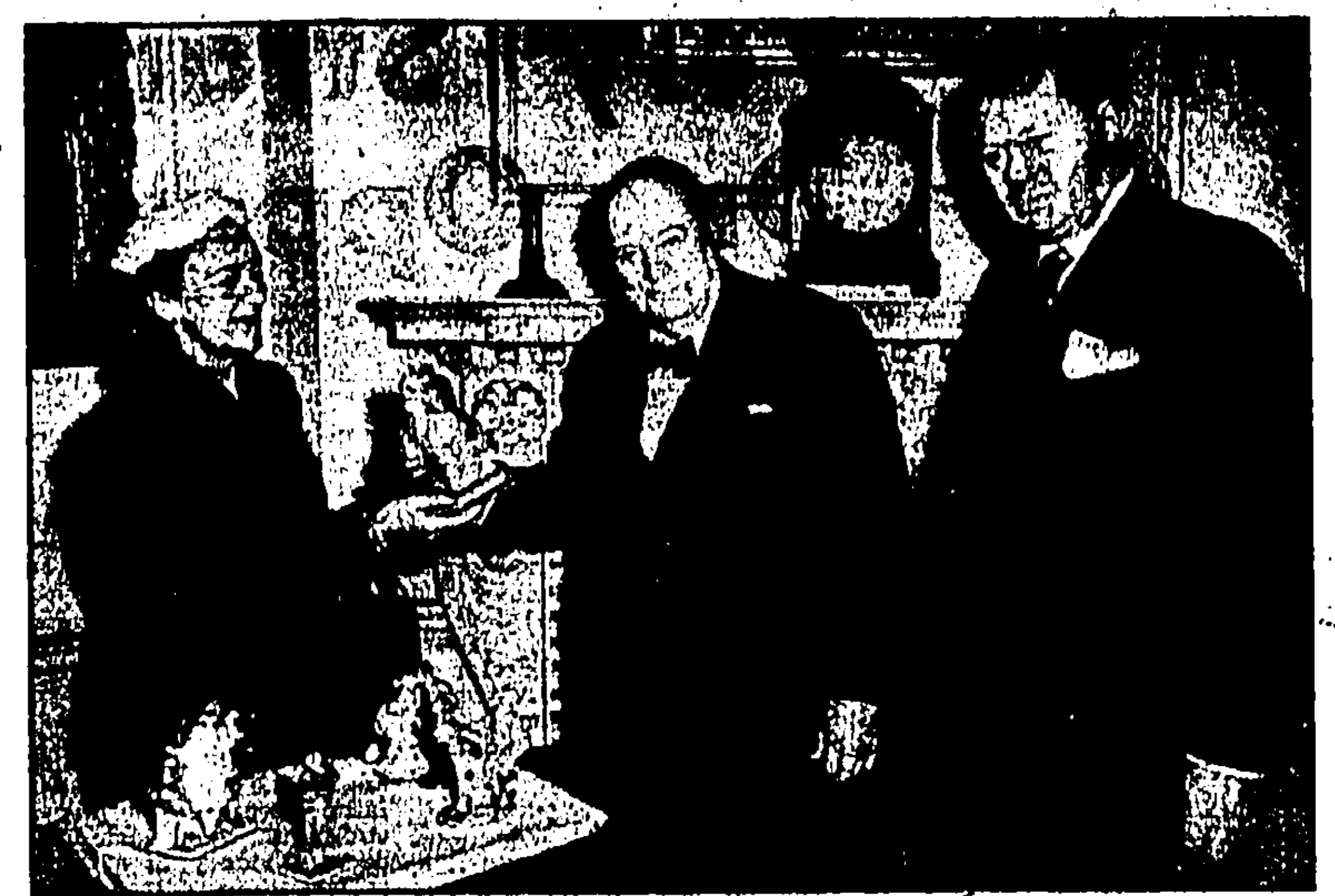
Referring to the war in Indo-China, Senator Lodge said "The United States is determined—working in conjunction with France, with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and with other free nations concerned—to help prevent the spread of the Soviet and Chinese Communist systems to Southeast Asia."

Mr Lodge then recalled the close ties linking France and America, adding that the United States presence in Europe was the surest guarantee of peace.

"With us in the picture, any potential German numerical superiority will be completely balanced," he said.

After declaring that American troops could participate in the defence of Europe only under certain conditions, Mr Lodge said "I say all this as a man with 13 years of service in the United States Senate behind him, who took an active part in 1951 in the Senate debate on the sending of the six United States divisions to Europe. These are opinions based on long experience and offered in friendship."—France-Press.

Hans Andersen Figurines For Sir Winston



Propaganda And Petrol

How And Why Russia Slashed Her Defence Estimates

London, Apr. 21.

Only the men in the Kremlin know whether the ten per cent cut in the Soviet defence budget for 1954 means Russia is genuinely cutting her armed forces or her military expenditure.

The Kremlin announced the ten per cent slash in the defence budget today.

The Supreme Soviet, Russia's Parliament, heard that 100,000,000,000 Roubles will be spent on defence this year—a reduction of 9,900,000,000 Roubles over the 1953 figure.

At the Soviet fixed exchange rate, the defence figure amounts to £8,925,000,000, out of a budget totalling about £50,000,000,000.

Stocky Arseni Zverev, who has managed Soviet finances for many years, went to the hand-carved oak rostrum in the Kremlin's Grand Palace and told Deputies that Russia's defence spending this year totals only 17.8 per cent of her budget.

He said the percentage allocated to defence was 20.8 of many years' budget and 23.8 in 1952, when Russia had a record peacetime arms expenditure.

The Soviet state budget has never itemised many items of expenditure, generally regarded as coming under the heading of defence.

Neither does the budget give any clue as to how much Russia

is spending on hydrogen bomb and atomic bomb development.

One way in which Mr Zverev has been able to cut army costs is known.

On the eve of April 1, the Soviet Government announced a further series of cuts in state-controlled retail prices.

The biggest cut announced was for petrol—slashed by 40 per cent. And the biggest user of petrol in Russia is the Soviet Army. With the price cut, Zverev will save millions, and perhaps billions, of Roubles.

One thing seems certain, that Premier Malenkov and his Finance Minister would not cut defence spending below the level recommended by the Soviet Army chiefs.

PROPAGANDA

Malenkov has constantly stressed the need to "strengthen and maintain" the Soviet armed forces and keep them in a "state of readiness." But at the same time, a cut in defence spending is highly valuable to him for propaganda purposes.

Zverev, in his speech today, said the defence allocation ensures "the necessary defensive capacity of the country, and the modernisation of the armed forces."

May Day slogans issued in Russia yesterday called on Russian soldiers to "master the new techniques and armaments." "New techniques" could mean techniques of atomic warfare.

And the appropriations for atomic developments remain secret.—China Mail Special.

The British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill was last week presented with five figurines representing characters from Hans Andersen's tales.

At 10, Downing Street, his official residence in London, he received them from Mr Ole Cavling, Editor-in-Chief of Copenhagen newspaper Ekstrabladet.

The presentation marks Sir Winston's part in the annual broadcast from Odense, Andersen's birthplace, on April 2, the story-teller's birthday. Mr Cavling inaugurated the broadcasts five years ago and each year since then has had the programme introduced by a world famous figure.

And to each of these five has gone a presentation set of figurines in costly Royal Copenhagen china. The picture shows Sir Winston Churchill being shown one of the figurines—the Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep—by Mrs Ole Cavling. Mr Ole Cavling is on right.

Alpinists To Attempt K-2 Climb

Rome, Apr. 21.

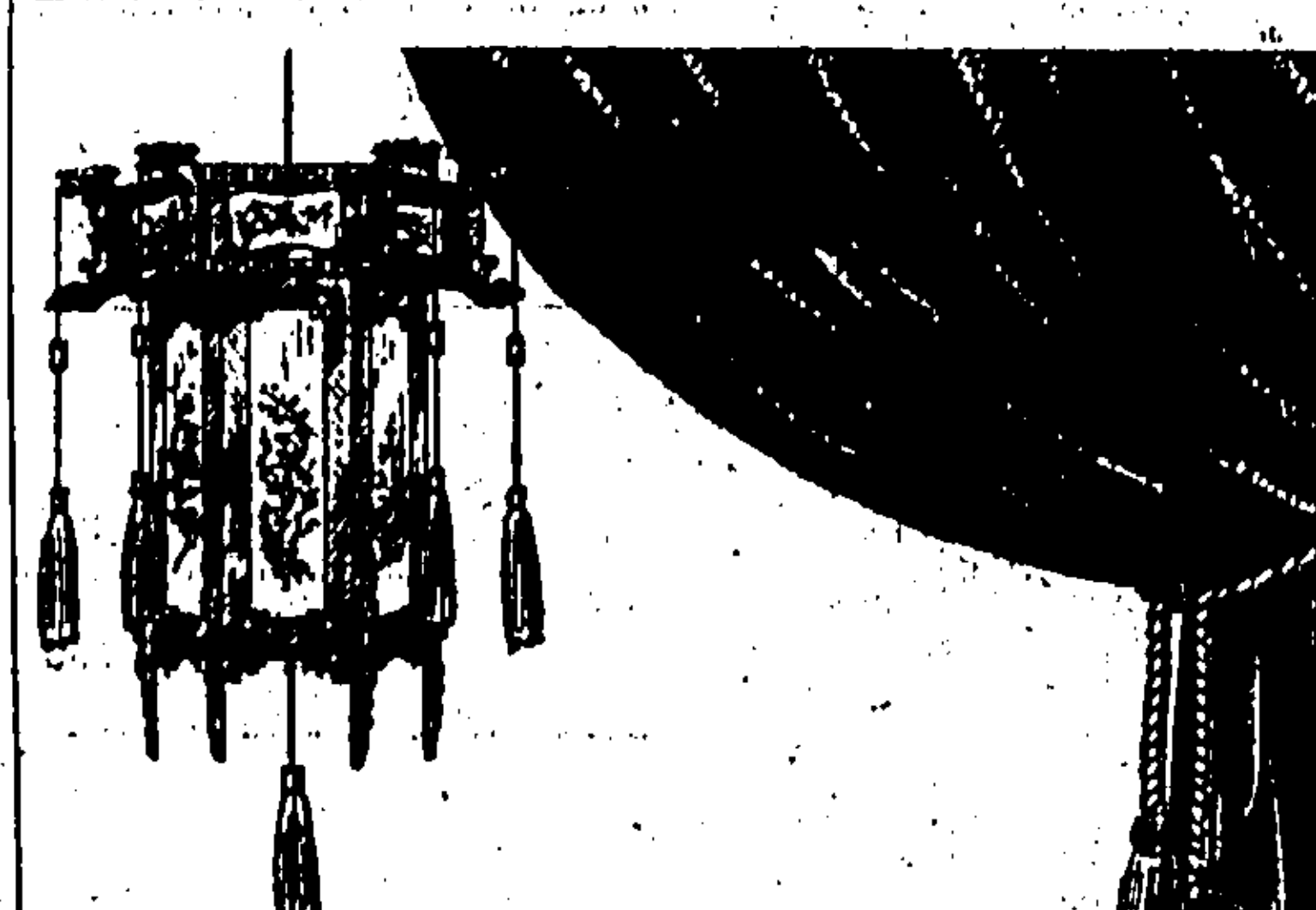
Ten Italian Alpinists left here by air yesterday for Karachi on the first leg of their attempt to climb the second highest mountain in the world—Mt Godwin Austen, otherwise known as K-2.

The mountain is 28,250 feet high—a bare 762 feet lower than Mt Everest, conquered by Sir John Hunt's expedition last May.

At Karachi the climbers will be joined by Professor Ardito Desio, one of Italy's outstanding geologists, who will lead the assault on the Himalayan peak.

Desio, who carried out exploratory expeditions on the slopes of K-2 last November, has assembled 250 native porters and guides and 10 tons of equipment for the attempt on the peak.

An attempt in August, 1953, by an American-led party to scale K-2 ended in tragedy when geologist Arthur K. Gilkey lost his life in a blizzard.—United Press.



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★ DON IDDON'S DIARY ★

The Very Strange Life Of Dr Oppenheimer

New York, Tuesday. Dr Robert Oppenheimer, who is known here as the man who made the atom bomb, talked to his doctor the day the headlines screamed. He wasn't worrying about himself, although he has just been suspended by the Atomic Energy Commission, pending review of his security file. He was worried about his wife who is ill with measles and has a broken ankle.

It was typical of the man that his main concern in this, the great crisis of his life, was with the welfare of his wife rather than himself.

Oppenheimer, a lean, handsome man, aged 50, is warm-hearted and loaded with charm. He is not absent-minded, eccentric, or "long-haired," in the tradition of scientists and professors.

Friends rally

HE has many friends as any professor in the United States, and they are rallying to his side. To the red brick house, Olden Manor, in Princeton, New Jersey, where Oppenheimer, his wife, and their two children live, came a stream of messages of support from his colleagues. Dr Vannevar Bush, Dr James Conant, and Professor Albert Einstein head the list of prominent scientists who are backing Oppenheimer against the charges that he is a security risk because of his alleged associations with Communists in the past.

The most effective defender of Oppenheimer's record will be the doctor himself. He is a fighter.

When the Government told him, some weeks ago, that charges of associating with Communists and hiring Communists for scientific projects were to be made against him he was given the chance of resigning from his posts as member of President Eisenhower's Science Advisory Committee and advisor to the Departments of State and Defense and the National Security Council, but he chose to fight.

Already he has written a 43-page answer to the charges, denying that he had lobbied against hydrogen-bomb development and stating, in an eloquent plea, "What I have learned has, I think, made me more fit to serve my country."

Until the explosive charges appeared in the newspaper front pages, Oppenheimer had not been much in the news in the past year or two. Since 1947 he has been Director of the Institute of Advanced Study Research Centre at Princeton, and other scientists, other names, were on the public's tongues.

Oppenheimer's biggest mission was achieved on July 16, 1945—the day of the test explosion of the world's first nuclear bomb in New Mexico. The man who had made the explosion was then 41 years old. Pioneer work in fusion had been done by others, but it was Oppenheimer who actually made the weapon. He was less modest in those days. Inclined to arrogance he sometimes boasted of his brilliance as a linguist, of his fabulous memory, and of his gifts as a poet.

A mineralogist

OPPENHEIMER was meant to be a scientist. When he was only five years old, visiting his grandfather in Germany, he was given a little box of minerals as a present, and he began a collection which soon filled his nursery. He sometimes says: "I was a fully-fledged mineralogist by the time I was eight."

When he was 11 Oppenheimer was elected a member of the New York Mineralogical Club, and at 12 he read his first paper at one of its meetings. He was a very assured youth.

From minerals he switched to chemistry and from chemistry to more intricate science.

"It was a very exciting experience," he said not long ago, "when I first learned of the atomic theory." At the Ethical Culture School and at Harvard he was a prodigy. In his late teens he went to Europe for further study—Cambridge and Göttingen, Leyden, Zurich—adding modern languages to his Latin and Greek.

By the time he was 24—"I was bursting with knowledge"—he

was a professor at the California Institute of Technology. This is one of the strange periods of a very strange life.

In his mid-twenties he cut himself off from the outer world. In his reply to charges against him he wrote the other day: "I studied and read Sanskrit."

Became social

OPPENHEIMER didn't worry about material things—all his life he has never had to. His father was a German-Jewish emigrant who made a great deal of money as a textile importer.

After the period of shutting himself away from the world Oppenheimer (his nickname among his intimates is Oppie) became social. There was a period when he went in for fast cars, very dry Martinis, elaborate food and parties, and then his conscience began to trouble him.

He worried about the Depression and seeing fine young scientists break because they couldn't get jobs. He worried about the Nazi outrages against the Jews.

"I woke up," he says, "to a recognition that I was a part of life. I became a real Left-Winger, joined the Teachers' Union, had lots of Communist friends."

Oppenheimer has never tried to conceal that radical period in

his life, and says: "If it had not been for this late, indispensable education I could not have done the atom job at Los Alamos at all."

In 1939 Oppenheimer, who was then 35, met Katherine Harrison, a tiny German-born brunette who had been married to a radiologist and was herself a scientist. A year later he married her.

Dr Oppenheimer has admitted, in answer to the charges against him, that his wife had been previously married to a Communist Party official who had died fighting in Spain.

Outstanding work

HIS work as a scientist in California was so outstanding that not many people were surprised when Major-General Leslie Groves chose him to head the new scientific laboratory at Los Alamos, and, in short, make the atom bomb.

At Los Alamos he poured out his energy and his genius.

Then, on July 16, 1945, he saw the culmination of his work—the atomic explosion. As he watched the blast he told later that two lines ran through his mind:

"I had become Death. The shatterer of the world."

For years he has tried to keep out of politics. Today he has been plunged deeply into them.

HENRIETTA LAYS AN ATOMIC EGG

By CHAPMAN PINCHER

A WHITE LEGHORN hen called Henrietta has laid a radioactive Easter egg worth £200—so that an atom scientist and a London doctor could find out more about how people build up resistance to germs.

Dr J. R. Catch, the atom scientist, "fed" a green pond plant with a gas containing the costly radioactive substance carbon 14. This was at the Government's radiochemical centre at Amersham, Bucks.

The process was so expensive that an amount of the plant to cover a sixpence cost £300. This amount was sent to the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill.

There Dr John Humphrey fed the plant to Henrietta in the most expensive meal ever given to a hen. The next egg she laid was not radioactive, but the one after contained so much

carbon 14 that it was valued at £200.

No egg was ever handled so carefully. And the radioactive albumen from this egg is being used in the anti-germ experiments.

What happened to Henrietta? She was unharmed by the experiment, but she was nevertheless killed—in the taxpayers' interest.

For she still contained much of the carbon 14, which is now being extracted for further experiments.

NOTE: In the British 1951 film "Mr Drake's Duck," Mrs Drake (Yolande Donlan) bought a duck which laid an egg which went "boiling" when hit.

The egg turned out to contain uranium, whereupon Mr Drake (Douglas Fairbanks Jun.) found his farm declared a prohibited area.

By SEFTON DELMER

MY HAT LEADS TO TROUBLE

HAT trouble is what I'm having and in two places at the same time: London and Hamburg.

In London readers have protested that the smart black solouch which sometimes decorates this column makes me look like a gangster. So to please them I bought a bowler. A larger and more curly-brimmed bowler than most.

In my new bowler I sallied forth into Berkeley Street. On the opposite corner stood a man also wearing a bowler. He grinned at me. I grinned cheerfully back, thinking he was someone I should know.

He dashed across the street, pushed a slip of paper into my pocket, said: "Put those on for me," and vanished.

Three names were on that slip. I discovered they were three names due to run at Newmarket this afternoon.

In Hamburg the weekly Die Zeit, to lend authority to

an angry and scurrilous attack on me over my "How Dead is Hitler?" series draws a portrait showing me in what is obviously a Gestapo man's hat.

The headline says:—

"Wie tot ist Sefton Delder?"

The means: "How dead is Sefton Delder?"

I have stopped wearing a hat.

But even that "Gestapo" hat has not stopped Germans writing to me about my articles. Nine out of 10 letters tell me that I am right. Quite a number claim that the revival of militarism and Nazism, which is beginning to manifest itself in Germany today, is as much the fault of the British and American "re-educators" as it is of the Germans.

Now I know it is a national vice of the Germans to excuse themselves in this way and put responsibility for their own shortcomings on to others.

But, this time, I think they are on more solid ground in attacking our allied postwar policy of having encouraged present trends in Germany. Our swift transition from "no fraternisation" and wholesale arrest of German militarists and diplomats to endorsement of them as allies in the struggle against Communism have

evitably produced the reaction in Germany today which is causing me such misgivings.

In my opinion the whole of our denazification policy—left largely to the Germans themselves—was appallingly muddled.

On the one hand we excluded whole categories of persons from employment—I remember a German Air Force colonel who was not even allowed to be employed as a chauffeur, and shot himself when I could not get the ban lifted.

On the other hand we accepted the most ludicrous whitewashing judgment from German denazification tribunals which thus prepared the way for the employment of Nazis in key posts.

Most interesting letter of all comes from Dr Hans J. Schrimps and Paul G. Klusmann of Münster, who tell me they are writing at the instance of a small group of students and scientists. They say:—

"We are once more in Germany glorifying the so-called 'soldierly virtues' which in Germany mean herd obedience and military arrogance."

As evidence they enclose a copy of the Stahlhelm newspaper of the steel-helmet "retirees" military oath taken by the young recruits to the keeping gesture of the Kremlin. The Stahlhelm, it is pointed out, will give itself a splendid

and all the trappings of militarist Nazi propaganda.

No change

DO not imagine that if Franco falls and he is succeeded by a Left-wing Government in Spain we shall hear any less about Spanish claims to Gibraltar.

Indalecio Prieto, whom I well remember as the party Prime Minister in charge of Red Spain during the civil war, has made sure that we should be under no illusions. From his exile in Buenos Aires he has written a flaming indictment of the British occupation of Gibraltar for the émigré newspaper Espana Republicana.

His diatribe culminates in the accusation that the British have no sense of humour.

"Shaw," he says, "was their last humourist, and he was an Irishman."

Their cut

I FEEL safe in prophesying that there will be a fall in the Soviet expenditure on military defence in the next Soviet Budget. Why? Because the Soviet Union has just reduced the price of petrol by 40 per cent. One of the chief items on any defence Budget is petrol for the mechanised forces. By this simple book-keeping gesture the Kremlin will give itself a splendid personal appearance.



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THE BOMB
Where Do We Go From Here?

★
BERTRAND RUSSELL, mathematician, philosopher, answers the questions that everyone is asking (in an interview with Robert Waithman)



HE FORETOLD IT

BERTRAND RUSSELL sat very upright in his armchair, smoking a curved pipe and talking gently about the hydrogen bomb. But there was nothing gentle about his conclusions.

Britain's greatest living philosopher (portrait above), whose mind and intellectual courage have moved the twentieth century since its beginning, is now 81. His hair is white and his voice is soft; and his opinions, as always, are expressed with a memorable clarity. I put a succession of questions to him and he answered them thus:

Is there any justification for alarm at the thought that some disastrous miscalculation may occur in the H-bomb tests?

THOUGH, obviously, there will come a time when

these experiments are too dangerous, I don't think we have reached that point yet.

If there were a hydrogen-bomb war it is quite clear that practically everybody in London would perish. A shower of hydrogen bombs would almost certainly sterilise large agricultural areas, and the resulting famine would be fearful.

But we are talking of the current tests, in peace-time. I do not expect disaster from them. I think those who may have been showered with radio-active ash, whose fishing catches have been damaged or destroyed, undoubtedly have every right to complain.

But I do not foresee a rain of radio-active ash, comparable with the phenomena we saw after the explosion of the Krakatoa Volcano in 1883 (which I remember well). I do not

think that, so long as the explosions are few, marine life will be grievously affected.

It is affected now by oil pollution, isn't it—though that is much less dramatic a story?

Do you think that a feeling of dread and uncertainty at the back of people's minds might have an evil social effect?

WELL, you know, it isn't an effect that lasts long. As with the atom bomb at first, people get into a state; but after a little while they forget it.

If you have perpetually mounting crises, of course, it will be different. The truth is, though, that the thought of an old peril, however great, will not distract people from their daily jobs.

You will have observed that since the first atom bombs were exploded the birth rate has continued to go up. That is a reliable test.

I should say that the fear of unemployment, which is something everyone understands, has a much greater social effect than the fear of atom bombs.

And the international effects? Do we seem to you to have reached a strategic stalemate? Is there now a new basis for discussion between Russia and the West?

I THINK the existence of the hydrogen bomb presents a perfectly clear alternative to all the governments of the world. Will they submit to an international authority, or shall they dodge the issue whenever they can?

I am afraid that most governments and most individuals will refuse to face that alternative. They so dislike the idea of international government that they dodge the issue whenever they can.

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"ACHILLES"	do	2nd May
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"AENEAS"	do	20th May
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Agents, Australian-Oriental Line Ltd. China Navigation Co., Ltd.

LOST

PRESS PASS in the name of George V. Last, probably at Race Course on Saturday, April 17. Finder please return to Secretary, South China Morning Post, Ltd., or Public Relations Officer, Gloucester Building, 27313.

MUSICAL

JUST ARRIVED of well known English pianos, (drophead) with full guarantee. Prices reasonable. Inspection invited at Mayfair Music Co., 20F, China Building (next door to Grand Dispensary) Telephone 27313.

TO ADVERTISERS

SUNDAY POST-HERALD Space for commercial advertising should be booked not later than noon on Wednesdays.

For the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST and the CHINA MAIL 48 hours before date of publication.

Special Announcements and Classified Advertisements as usual.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

P.O. Box 53 Queen's Building Tel: 26631

HONGKONG to MARSEILLES in 24 days.

"VIET-NAM" sailing April 22nd

"CAMBODGE" sailing May 15th

HONGKONG to CASABLANCA in 30 days.

"IRAQUADDY" sailing May 4th

"INDUS" sailing May 31st

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis

NOW, THE MAN YOU COULDN'T HIT—WHOSE MONEY TURNED INTO SMOKE—WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

HE PUT ON A CRAZY MAKE-UP TO SCARE ME—AND IT DID!

I CAN'T PLACE YOUR MR. BEAN. I'VE A LOT OF WORK TO DO. WHEN I'VE FINISHED, I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT HIM.

HIM PUNCH-HAPPY FIGHTER. IMAGINE STUFF.

MAYBE, LOTHAR. MAYBE NOT. WE'LL SEE.

CONTINUED

FERDINAND

By MUR

NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller

JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins

DAIRY BOX

MILK CHOCOLATES

France Accuses India

Inaccurate Statement By Ambassador

Paris, Apr. 21.

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The Foreign Office said in a communique that this initiative of the Ambassador did not help mutual understanding between France and India.

Today's communique was preceded by a press release from the Indian Embassy here on April 20 which defined India's attitude to the French settlements and claimed that there is no basis for the suggestion that pressure has been exerted on them.

The Foreign Office communique said: "At the moment when the French Premier has sent a personal message to Pandit Nehru, requesting a free and sincere exchange of views on the problem, the Indian Ambassador in Paris has thought it his duty to issue an explanatory note on the French settlements."

The tendentious character of this document and the inexactitude which it contains need to be recalled.

The Ambassador's (1) that neutral observers concluded in 1951 that a referendum in the settlements was impossible because of French political repression or (2) that India has scrupulously abstained from doing anything to aggravate the situation, (3) that India has to claim that the Indian Government had "agreed" economic pressure on the settlements—Reuters.

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction on Friday, the 23rd April, 1954, at 10.30 a.m., at the Hong Kong & Shanghai Hotel Building, First Floor.

A VALUABLE COLLECTION OF CURIOS.

Comprising:—Jade, porcelain and Ivory Figures, Vases & Bowls, Table Screens, Ornaments, Hand Paintings, etc., etc.

On View now.

Terms:—50% in cash on fall of Hammer and balance by Noon the following day.

A. E. B. de SOUSA, Auctioneer.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

Arrived 21st April, 1954.

Shanghai cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Giddard & Douglas at Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf (Gardiner) at 10 a.m. on Saturday 24th April and Monday 26th April, 1954 and consignees representatives are requested to be present during survey.

Butterfield & Swire.

Agents, Australian-Oriental Line Ltd. China Navigation Co., Ltd.

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New Laboratories For India's Industries

New Delhi, Apr. 20. Soon after Independence, India began building a number of national laboratories for scientific research. These laboratories were given priority by the Prime Minister, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, who felt that to become a modern power, India had to develop her own research.

These laboratories are beginning now to show results which promise to help India in her struggle to raise the standard of living of her people.

Here are some examples: In Mysore, a Government research laboratory has shown that starch can be prepared from mango kernels, plentiful in the area. These kernels, formerly were thrown away. The same starch can be prepared from cashew apples, a by-product of the cashew nut industry on India's Malabar coast. Over 50,000 tons of these cashew apples now go to waste.

Another Indian laboratory has made an exhaustive survey of Indian indigenous drugs and has published the first Indian pharmaceutical book. Modern research has shown that many Indian herbs and medicinal plants are important in present-day treatment of disease.

Another national institute in Bombay State has shown that waste coal ash which is a by-product of fertilizer plants can be used in cement mixes. About 10 to 12 per cent of cement can be replaced by the mixture for use in making mortar and concrete. This institute also has developed a low cost concrete shell house.

BRICKS FROM SLUDGE. Lime sludge is obtained as a waste product during the manufacture of acetylene from calcium carbide. A Government research institute in Calcutta has produced good quality sand-lime bricks from this sludge. These bricks are stronger and more regular in size than clay bricks and by incorporation of various pigments, they can be made in a variety of colours for use as facing bricks in buildings.

The Indian manganese industry has a long tradition of selecting only high grade ore for the export market. This has resulted in the growth of huge dumps of low grade ore, about 375,000 tons being available in Central India, and other 1,200,000 tons in Andhra Pradesh.

State and about 200,000 tons in Bihar State. The Indian Bureau of Mines, working with the National Metallurgical Laboratory in West Bengal, has designed a plant for the extraction of this low grade ore.

India's present annual production of 60,000 tons of fertilizer consumes about 8,000 tons of sulphur, all of which is imported. The National Chemical Laboratory has evolved a method of preparing phosphate fertilizer by using hydrochloric acid on phosphate rocks. India has a large amount of chloride from its alkali plants to make hydrochloric acid which can be used instead of the sulphuric acid. This has found an economic use for what used to be a waste product—United Press.

New Tanker Built In Germany. Kiel, Apr. 20. The "Olympic Snow", a tanker with a capacity of 21,800 tons, was launched from the Howaldt shipyard here on April 3.

Built for the Greek-American shipowner Mr. A. S. Onassis, the vessel is powered by a steam turbine giving her a speed of 10.5 knots.

She is the sixth of a fleet of tankers ordered by Mr. Onassis. A seventh was scheduled to be launched on April 14. — China Mail Special.

No Disturbances. Georgetown, Apr. 21. British troops and the British Gurkha volunteers force march today without incident in honour of the Queen's birthday. Supporters of the People's Progressive Party had threatened disturbances.—Reuters.

P&O B.I. E&A COMPANIES

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL S.N. CO.

PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leaves London	Due Hongkong
"CANTON"	1st April	4th May
"CARTHAGE"	20th April	31st May
"CORFU"	27th May	20th June

Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore

Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CHUSAN"	2nd May	31st May
"CANTON"	12th May	12th June
"CARTHAGE"	4th June	5th July

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

* Arrives from Japan 20th April

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Arrive	From
"SHILLONG"	29th April	UK
Homewards	Loading	For
"SURAT"	6th May	Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Suez, Haifa, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Hamburg

With liberty to call at Belawan before or after State Ports and at Bombay if inducement offers.

Tanks available for cargo of Oil in Bulk. Space for refrigerated cargo. Limited passenger accommodation.

BRITISH INDIA S.N. CO., LTD.

"GANGES"	Leaves 20th Apr.	for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon, Calcutta & Calcutta
"SANTHA"	Leaves 4th May	for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta
"FULTALA"	Leaves 6th May	for Singapore, Rangoon & Calcutta

P. & O. B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"UMARIA"	Leaves 20th Apr.	from Persian Gulf, for Japan
"OLINDA"	Leaves 1st May	from Persian Gulf, for Japan
"OKILA"	Leaves 6th May	from Japan, for Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Rangoon, Aden, Suez, Haifa, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Hamburg

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

"NELLORE"	In Port	from Japan, for Auckland, Wellington, Sydney & Melbourne
"NANKIN"	Leaves 13th May	from Japan, for Labuan, Sandakan, Malacca, Singapore, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne & Adelaide

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

For full particulars apply to MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO. OF HONG KONG LTD. Telephone Nos. 27721-4.

EVERETT LINES

EVERETT ORIENT LINE

Fast regular freight—refrigerator—passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Rangoon, Calcutta and Chittagong.

"LENEVERETT"

Arrives	Apr. 24	from Manila.
Sails	Apr. 25	for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta.

"NOREVERETT"

Arrives	May 14	from Singapore
Sails	May 14	for Kobe & Yokohama.

(Accepting cargo for transshipment Kobe/Pusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STAR LINE

Fast regular freight—refrigerator—passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi and Persian Gulf Ports.

"THAI"

Oldest Photographer In The World?



Thought to be the oldest working photographer in the world, Mr. Tom Watson, aged 91, of Lythe, near Whitby, Yorkshire, was a delegate at the congress of the Institute of British Photographers in Scarborough, Yorkshire, where he is shown taking a photograph of some of the other delegates. Though science has assisted photographers greatly in the last 25 years, Mr. Watson still uses no artificial lighting whatsoever either in his studio or in his darkroom. Printing and enlarging are done by daylight obtained through a hole in the dark-room wall. Many of Mr. Watson's pictures have been exhibited in Britain and on the Continent.—Reuterphoto.

Japan's Geisha Girls Are Becoming Swamped In Red Tape

Osaka, Japan, Apr. 21.

Japan's leading Geisha teacher, Yuzaburo Sakaguchi, is trying to restore the Geisha to her pre-war glory.

Sitting on the polished oaken floor of his Yamato-ya Geisha school in Osaka, Sakaguchi said that Geishas today have become part of a vast bureaucratic system. Twelve government forms have to be filled up before a Geisha can accept a customer, he explained unhappily, and what is more, the morals of today's Geishas are distinctly less rigid than they used to be.

As Sakaguchi talked, twenty young girls dressed in colourful kimonos were practising the intricate motions of a traditional Geisha dance.

Looking at them rather gloomily, and pausing every now and then to tap out instructions, Sakaguchi said that all the Geishas working in Japan today were either untrained or "rather old." It takes five years to train a Geisha girl and all the schools were closed during the war. The Yamato-ya, one of the two schools left in Japan, reopened three years ago.

"In two or three years there will be some very good Geishas," he declared, "but now" he shrugged his shoulders.

Genuine Geishas are dinner companions and entertainers at expensive Japanese-style restaurants. They help to serve the numerous dishes, pour sake

and converse wittily and intelligently with their customers. On request they will sing and dance in traditional fashion. Geishas today wear the same elaborate and colourful costumes as they did 200 years ago.

Sakaguchi said that before the war schools started training Geishas at the age of ten. Now, under Allied-sponsored labour laws, they cannot start training until they are 16, which meant he had to reorganise his system of training and rewrite his textbooks. But he expects the new Geishas, who will appear in two years, will be as good as any.

After their classes every day, the girls work as waitresses in the elaborate Yamato-ya restaurant to which the school is attached. For this, they are paid 3,000 yen (about \$25 sterling) a month, their board, food and clothing being supplied by the restaurant.

After she has passed her final examination, the prospective Geisha faces the Commission of Examination for Geishas, which, if she is found suitable, presents her with a "Diploma of Accomplishments." She then starts work at her old restaurant as a full-fledged Geisha.

She begins at a salary of 20,000 yen (about \$220 sterling) a month, plus tips from customers. A good Geisha will get up to 100,000 yen (about \$1,100 sterling) in tips a month.

Geishas say that most of this goes on clothes, which they supply themselves. The remainder is saved for their old age. Most Geishas retire at between 35 and 40. They then use their savings to set themselves up in a small business, usually a restaurant or tea-shop.

Morals Decline

The top Japanese Geisha at present is Takekumi Kari, who works in Tokyo. She is not attached to any particular restaurant and probably earns as much as a top industrial executive—the class from which she gets most of her income.

Geishas, who rank with Mount Fuji as the nation's main source of attractions, have always played a significant role in Japanese life. Many big

Japanese business deals and political negotiations go on in Geisha houses. The Geisha house is the Japanese equivalent of the American "smoke-filled back room."

Foreign traders are often taken to Geisha houses, and the girls are learning English. In some cases, English phrases show up in Geisha songs. Sakaguchi said that the morals of Geisha girls have declined greatly since the war. But he believes that good training will soon restore their damaged morals.

A restaurant owner, according to a restaurant industry, is the complex labour law which covers Geisha girls and which classifies them as "day labourers," together with such professionals as doctors and nurses.

Geisha girls are booked through a bureau with which they register and which has to submit twelve forms to various Government departments for one night's work. Many of the forms have to be done in quadruplicate.

Sakaguchi concludes his textbook with "Ten Commandments to a Geisha Girl." They are:

1. Get up by 9 a.m., clean your room, pay your respects to God or Buddha, then have breakfast. Clean your teeth so that you make a good impression on the customer when you smile.
2. Practise your accomplishments daily.
3. Make an appointment with your hairdresser. Take your bath before 3 p.m. so that you can entertain a customer at any time.
4. When you have a call from a customer, decide quickly whether you want to go or not. Do not waste another's time. Behave yourself out of doors. You never know who is watching.
5. Entertain your customers with equal consideration, whether you know them or not. Strangers of today will be your customers of tomorrow.
6. Do not forget to take your fan or other necessary equipment.
7. Do not be free to leave your customer's room, although you have friends in another room.
8. Do not ask your customer to pay for your own house.
9. Look after your money. Do not waste it, but spend generously when necessary.
10. To be a good Geisha girl does not mean necessarily that you are good-looking, skilful, or make much money. Show what duty and humility are—China.

Many big Japanese life. Many big

Slow Start For Commonwealth Finance Company

Suitable applications for use of the Commonwealth Development Finance Company's facilities "have not yet come forward in the volume which might have been anticipated," said the Chairman, Sir Frederick Godber, in his first annual report.

The Company was set up by a number of prominent British business houses following the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' economic conference of December, 1952.

Its main object is "to provide or procure financial facilities of all kinds for the development of the natural and other resources of any part of the Commonwealth."

The Company will not itself take a direct part in such development work, but will help to finance approved projects when private enterprise is unable to obtain capital from other sources.

Sir Frederick Godber attributes the shortage of suitable applicants to three factors:

1. It takes time for the functions of a new organisation, like the Company, to become known and understood by potential borrowers.
2. Sound development projects are already in the large extent being financed through other channels.
3. There are many cases of good development ideas which fail to emerge as serious and considered projects, and this may be due to the sponsor not having access to the right technical and consultant advice in the preparation of his plans.

MANY APPLICATIONS

The Company is "giving some thought to the latter possibility," the chairman said, "in collaboration with the International Bank, the Federation of British Industries, and others."

But if the right kind of applications have failed to materialise, the expected number, there has been no shortage of applications that fail to qualify.

Sir Frederick says the Company has received a number of applications, "the large majority being unsuitable to detailed consideration."

Of the rest, two or three were of some importance, but for various reasons, did not result in the agreement on terms. One was not pursued by the Company because it was thought from the outset that it could be

Singapore Rubber Market

Singapore, Apr. 21. The market opened quietly steady but firm during the day on good buying for all grades with sellers reserved.

Future closings were:
No. 1 rubber per lb. May 014-015
July 014-015
Sept. 014-015
No. 2 rubber per lb. May 013-014
July 013-014
Sept. 013-014
No. 3 rubber per lb. May 012-013
July 012-013
Sept. 012-013
Blanket rubber per lb. May 011-012
July 011-012
Sept. 011-012
No. 1 pale crepe per lb. May 010-011
July 010-011
Sept. 010-011

NEW YORK MARKET

New York, Apr. 21. Rubber futures today closed 10 points lower to 20 points higher with sales of 108 contracts.

Profit-taking upset the May delivery while the late months contributed to meet good support from brokers with Wall Street connections.

The spot market developed the best activity for some time, dealers said. Some estimated the business around 600 to 700 tons. Large and small factories from Ohio were identified among the buyers. Reported sales included one sheet, May delivery, at 22 cents; two sheets at 21½ cents for August delivery; five sheets for June delivery 20½ cents and flat bark for July delivery at 10½ cents, all landed basis.

Future closings were:
May 22.10-15
July 22.10-15
Sept. 22.10-15
December 22.10-15
March (1955) 22.10-15
May 22.10-15
July 22.10-15
Sept. 22.10-15
December 22.10-15
March (1955) 22.10-15

LONDON MARKET

London, Apr. 21. The rubber market was quietly steady with No. 1 Rs spot quoted at 16 5/10 pence per lb. Prices:
No. 1 Rs spot 16 5/10-16 1/2
May 16 1/2-16 3/4
July 16 3/4-16 1/2
Sept. 16 1/2-16 3/4
Dec. 16 3/4-16 1/2
March 16 1/2-16 3/4
May 16 1/2-16 3/4
July 16 3/4-16 1/2
Sept. 16 1/2-16 3/4
Dec. 16 3/4-16 1/2
March 16 1/2-16 3/4

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TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

Sako Barrels Instead Of Ships

Kobe, Japan, Apr. 21. A shipbuilding yard near Kobe is building sake (wine) barrels instead of ships.

The current political storm over allegations that politicians have received bribes from shipbuilding company executives has forced many companies to halt their programmes and take up some other activity until things return to normal.

Those yards still building ships will also be forced to take up some other project if the present police and parliamentary investigations are not concluded by June. The investigations are preventing shipbuilding companies from mapping out their 1954-55 programmes.

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE

(From Our Correspondent)

Business on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$280,007.50. Noon quotations and the morning's dealings—

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS			
HK Bank	1035		
Est. Asia	170		
INSURANCES			
Union	900	250	59 1/2
Lombard			
DOCKS, ETC.			
K. Wharf	71 1/2	100	17 80
Dock			
President	12 00		
IOB			
Wharfedale	7 70	7 1/2	

LAND, ETC.

HK Hotel	0 00		
HK Land	50 1/2	01	002 1/2 00
Est. Asia	34 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2 35
			33 1/2 33

Realty .. 2 200

UTILITIES

Trans	27 00 27 00	500	27 00
		500	27 00
		500	27 00
		500	27 00

Star Ferry 123 132 100 16 10

C Light (N) 10 10 10 10 10 10

Electric 10 13 10 10 10 10

Telephone 27 00 20 20

INDUSTRIALS

Cement	17 30 17 30		
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STORES, ETC.

Dairy XD	25 30 25 30	500	25 40
		500	25 40

Watson 17 90

Sincere 2 00

COTTONS

Textiles 7 30

1000 1 30

2000 1 30

3000 1 30

MISCELLANEOUS

Yamaguchi 0 30

Yamaguchi 141 141 100 142

Allied Inv 3 00 1/2 4

Butler's "Investment Allowance" Plan Will Help The Colonies

From Our Own Correspondent

London, Apr. 21.

British mining concerns operating in the Colonies will benefit by the new "investment allowance" scheme, proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. R. A. Butler, in his recent Budget speech.

This scheme is primarily designed to increase the incentive to install up-to-date and more efficient plant and machinery and thus promote greater industrial output in Britain at a time when world-wide competition is becoming keener.

Under the existing "initial allowances" system, a British mining company, whether it is operating at home or in the Colonies, is able to claim 40 per cent of the initial cost of new investment in plant and machinery against taxation during the year in which the capital expenditure is incurred.

But, as the Chancellor pointed out, this system merely anticipates a part of the annual allowances for wear and tear, so that tax liability is less in the year in which investment takes place, but may be larger later on.

It was a step in the right direction, he said, but a limited one since its effect was essentially that of an interest-free loan. As the cash resources of companies increased, this incentive became less important.

The new investment allowance would do more, said Mr. Butler. It would give a tax-free allowance equal to a part of the cost of investment in assets which qualified for it in addition to the full annual depreciation allowances.

Thus, the initial allowances gave some extra help in the year in which the investment was undertaken, but at a cost of smaller allowances for that investment in later years. In contrast, the new investment allowance would give similar help in the first year, but with no reduction in subsequent allowances.

The new all-round 20 per cent investment allowance is not immediately so favourable as the initial allowance of 40 per cent which mining companies can now claim on new investments. But Mr. Butler said that since the investment allowance would be given over and above allowances up to the cost of the works, it would practically always be better in the long run.

However, he proposed to allow any mining undertaking to choose between the new investment allowance and initial allowances at the 40 per cent rate.

If a mining company chooses the investment allowance system, it will be permitted to add 20 per cent of the cost of the new investment to the ordinary provision for wear and tear as an allowance against taxation in that year.

In the second year, however, the investment allowance will not be deducted when computing the wear and tear allowance on the written-down value of the asset.

Thus, the total depreciation allowances set against the company's tax liability will add up to 120 per cent of the cost of the investment instead of the present 100 per cent.

The Chancellor also announced a measure to help British firms to offer long-term credit to Commonwealth importers of capital goods.

This will be done by enabling the Export Credit Guarantee Department to give full cover to a bank up to a maximum of 85 per cent of the value of the transaction.

Hitherto, the E.C.G.D.'s facilities were only granted to the exporter, and this exposed the banks to certain risks and thus reduced their willingness to provide credit.

New York Cotton Market

New York, Apr. 21. The cotton market maintained an overtones of steadiness throughout the session today. Trading volumes and open interests were:

Month	Volume	Open Interest
May	21,000	20,000
July	11,000	11,000
Sept.	11,000	11,000
Nov.	11,000	11,000
Jan.	11,000	11,000
Mar.	11,000	11,000
May	11,000	11,000
July	11,000	11,000
Sept.	11,000	11,000
Nov.	11,000	11,000
Jan.	11,000	11,000
Mar.	11,000	11,000
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Jan.	11,000	11,000
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Nov.	11,000	11,000
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July	11,000	11,000
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Nov.	11,000	11,000
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Mar.	11,000	11,000
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JOHN HASTIE & CO., LTD.
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CHINA MAIL

Established 1845

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THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1954.

SHEAFFER'S
ADMIRAL
NEW
"SNORKEL"
PEN

JOHN CLARKE'S
CASEBOOK
FULL
ASTERN

SAMMY was thinking of buying a car, second hand. "Tell you what," said the man who was selling the car, to Sammy: "I'll leave her outside my house. If I'm not in, help yourself. Have a good look at her." Sammy agreed to do that.

On the evening he had named, he went to the address he had been given and found the car parked outside a pre-fab. It looked to be, as the owner had said it was, a bargain.

The only trouble was that a car parked immediately behind it made it impossible for Sammy to inspect the car he wanted to buy, as thoroughly as he would have liked.

NEAR MISS

SAMMY decided the other car would have to be moved. He opened his door, slipped into the engine, and fumbled around for the reverse gear position, trying to remember from the driving lessons he had been taking, where it was likely to be.

He pressed the self-starter, put in the clutch, shifted the gear lever.

He had found reverse, all right. The car shot backwards towards a main road crossing. A bus was half-way across. The driver saw Sammy coming at him in reverse and jammed on his brakes.

When he was within a couple of yards of ramming the stationary bus, Sammy remembered his driving lessons, where the brake lever was. He stopped and breathed again.

DIRECT HIT

THE bus driver breathed again, too, and resumed his journey. Sammy gently put his car into first gear, as he thought. But it was reverse he had found again. This time he hit the bus, propelling it gently upwards.

Sammy found first gear, and broke off the action, meaning to return the car to where he had found it. The bus driver followed, indignantly, on foot. Sammy parked his car and belted.

He was presently found, and in due course brought to the Lambeth court, where he pleaded guilty to a number of charges that included taking and driving away a car without its owner's consent, and driving without due care and attention. "When he was arrested," said a police officer to Mr Rowland Thomas, QC, the magistrate, "this man said: 'This would happen, just when I was meaning to get a car of my own and do the test.'"

"He's a man of good character," the officer went on, "and by trade he is a demonstrator."

SHUTTLECOCK

"NOT of how to drive, I hope," said the magistrate. "A demonstrator of kitchen utensils, sir. He has been out of work for some weeks, and was thinking of rejoining the Merchant Navy, which he has been in before, and where his pay would be £24 a month and his keep."

"Tell me, could you have paid compensation, if you'd knocked anyone down in that car?" the magistrate asked Sammy. "No, sir," said Sammy, a fair-haired 23-year-old. "I was just invited to look at the car and..."

"By you didn't have to drive up and down like a shuttlecock?"

BACK TO SEA

HE was ordered to pay a total of £9 10s. in fines and compensation for the damage he had done. He was also disqualified from driving for one year.

"I shall remind this case for three months. You must pay the money in that time," said the magistrate. "If you go back to sea you can send it." "Yes, sir," said Sammy, and rolled off with a mariner's gait to look for a job on the safe, broad sea, in a ship whose controls would be unambiguously labelled "Full astern" and "Full ahead."

Laniel's Appeal To Bao Dai

Paris, Apr. 21. French Premier Joseph Laniel today appealed to Bao Dai, head of the Vietnam State, to use his personal influence to speed up the conclusion of the Vietnamese independence negotiations.

French and Vietnamese officials were confident tonight that the basic agreement would be ready for signature before the start of the Geneva conference on Monday.

But despite six weeks of negotiations, details on military, economic, legal and cultural relations between the two countries still remain to be worked out.

M. Laniel was also reported to have assured Bao Dai during the two-hour conference that American press reports from Tokyo about secret French negotiations with the Vietnamese rebels were totally untrue.

Vietnamese officials said the draft political agreement, to which the two delegations are putting the final touches, met Vietnam's requirements for complete sovereignty.

The political agreement will consist of two separate treaties, one granting Vietnam total independence, and the other setting out the association between the two countries on terms of complete equality within the French Union. Informed quarters said.

This meant that France had abandoned her previous demand that both subjects should be covered in one single treaty.

The Vietnamese Government maintained that future association with France would only have any real value if it was able to sign the treaty as a completely sovereign partner.

Both the French and American Governments are eager that the basis of Vietnam's independence should be settled before the Geneva conference, to remove the possibility of Communist accusations that Vietnam was a "French puppet."—Reuter.

Bevan's Prophecy

London, Apr. 21.

Mr Aneurin Bevan, leader of the left-wing of the British Labour Party, who last week resigned from his Party's "Shadow Cabinet," today prophesied "a carefully arranged failure" for the forthcoming Geneva conference on Far Eastern affairs.

Mr Bevan has been in disagreement with the leaders of the Labour Opposition Party over the questions of German rearmament and Far Eastern policy.

In an article in the weekly Tribune, Mr Bevan claimed that Mr Foster Dulles, the American Vice-President, and John Foster Dulles, the United States Secretary of State, were opposed to negotiations with Communist China over Indo-China.

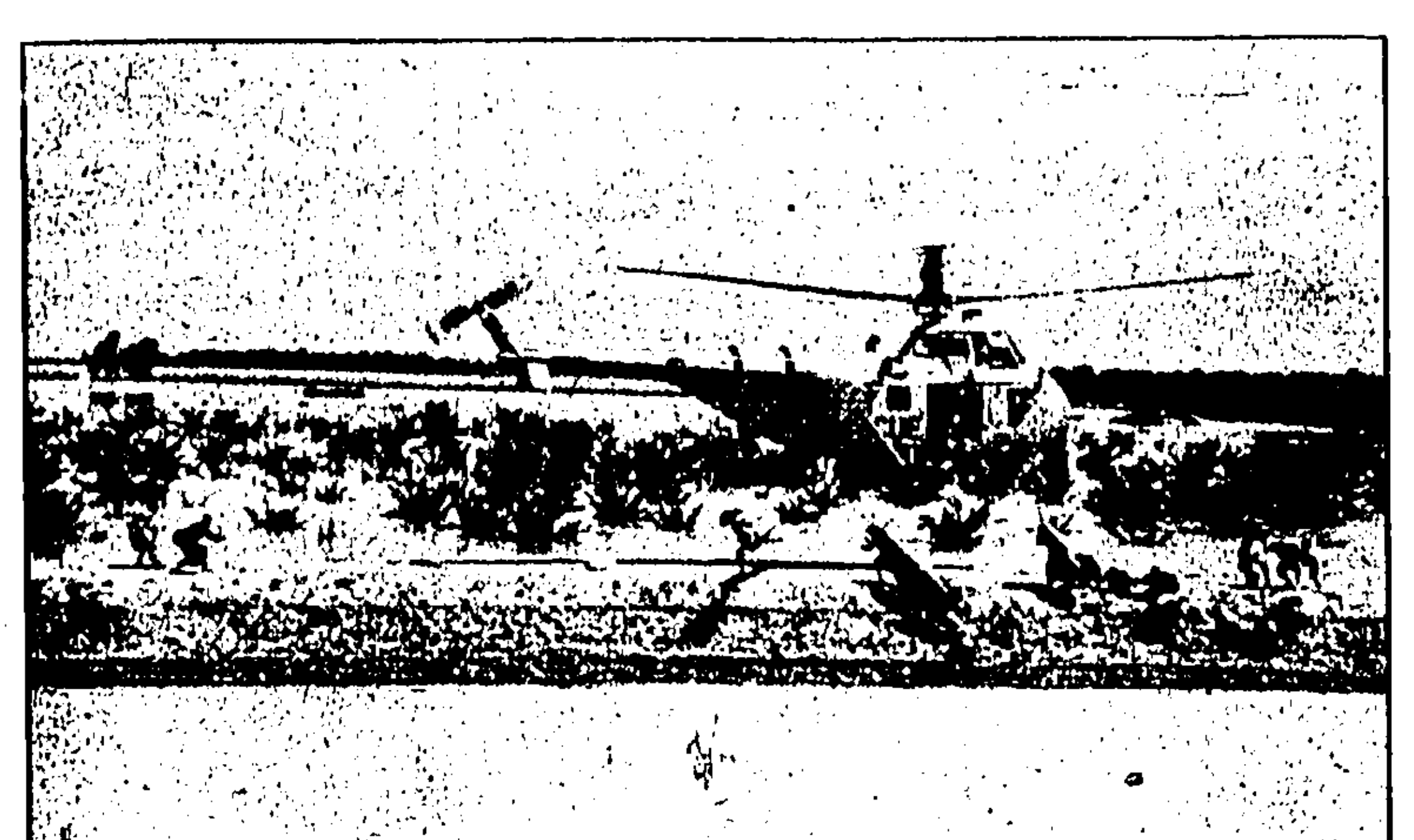
"When a nation's military striking power is in excess of its diplomatic influence, it is inclined to go to war," Mr Bevan said.

"This appears to be the situation the United States has reached. It is a sad and frightening spectacle."

"It has already led America to conduct its diplomacy by threat, and from threats to force is a short and, so it would appear, inevitable step."

Mr Bevan continued: "It is measure of the contempt in which some Americans hold the rest of the world that they make no effort to conceal their real intentions. Unfortunately the diplomacy of Mr Dulles has not been wholly unsuccessful. He has managed to persuade the British Government to join with the Labour Opposition in agreeing to 'examining the possibilities of a 'united front' in Southeast Asia. The danger of this situation is that the American leader cannot be permitted to fail. That would be too sharp a setback for Washington."—Reuter.

Air Lift For Iraq Flood Victims



Recently Baghdad and its surrounding area experienced the worst floods in the history of Iraq, making it necessary to employ an air lift to rush relief to people marooned by the flood waters. Above is the most moving picture received from the area. It shows one of the helicopters on its errand of mercy, with stricken men, women and children, made homeless by the floods, racing for the dropped supplies with poignant eagerness.

Washington Assesses Free World's Response To United Action Plea

Washington, Apr. 21.

The State Department said today that the free world's response to America's call for "united action" on Indo-China had made it clear to the Communists "that the free nations will not tolerate the piecemeal takeover of Southeast Asia."

It added in a background paper that China must now be fully aware of the grave consequences of "continued aggression" (in Indo-China).

"That knowledge may be the key to peace in Asia," the Department said.

The United States was consulting those of her allies mainly concerned on steps to meet the increasing Communist threat in the Far East.

"We are seeking their support in collective action to resist Communist encroachment in Southeast Asia," the paper said. The agreements reached between Britain, France and the United States to examine the possibility of a Southeast Asian collective defence arrangement "should greatly strengthen the hand of the free world side in dealing with the question at Geneva."

The Department added: "It has been made clear to the Communists that the free nations will not tolerate the piecemeal takeover of Southeast Asia." The United States went to Geneva hoping to obtain a settlement in Korea which would leave the country united, independent and free of Communist troops.

"We expect also to convince the Chinese Communist aggressors of the mounting danger created by their sponsorship of the war in Indo-China and the threat posed thereby to all Southeast Asia."

We hope that with such knowledge elementary wisdom will persuade them to abandon this more than reckless adventure. But we are not prepared to concede to Communist requests during these negotiations in exchange for the debased coin of Communist pretensions of good intentions," the paper said.

MAY LEARN MUCH

Much valuable information might be obtained at Geneva, for example we may learn more fully the extent of Soviet influence on Chinese affairs and we may obtain a clearer picture of immediate Communist intentions and objectives in Asia.

"If the Communist position at Geneva confirms their apparent threat to all the free nations of Asia, it will be to the free world's advantage to lay those intentions bare."

In view of the "Soviet refusal to permit a settlement of the German and Austrian problems" at Berlin, many might doubt that the Communists had any desire to settle the Korean and Indo-Chinese questions.

But should the pattern of the Geneva conference follow that of Berlin "we can expect the coalition of free nations to hold firm against such an assault."

The Department added: "Although we shall be cautious, we shall at the same time approach the conference with an optimistic determination to achieve the greatest possible result."

Many might question attempts to negotiate with the Communists or "raise the question whether there is not a danger that at Geneva we shall be forced to accept de-

Recently Baghdad and its surrounding area experienced the worst floods in the history of Iraq, making it necessary to employ an air lift to rush relief to people marooned by the flood waters. Above is the most moving picture received from the area. It shows one of the helicopters on its errand of mercy, with stricken men, women and children, made homeless by the floods, racing for the dropped supplies with poignant eagerness.

His Lordship observed that the difference between the parties was in the valuation of the shares and when it was considered the disastrous effect which might come to the Company on the continuation of the case—it did not matter which side won or lost—"that you cannot find in Hongkong a man sufficiently expert and sufficiently straightforward and honest to value these shares in their correct value astounds me."

Mr Bernacchi said he would be happy for another adjournment to arrive at a solution and he would accept any reasonable suggestion based by a neutral valuer.

His Lordship then adjourned the case until 2.30 p.m. today in order that the parties might arrive at a reasonable solution.

When hearing resumed this morning, Mr R. W. S. Winter said that his clients had given serious consideration to his Lordship's concluding remarks when the case adjourned last Thursday. He said his instructing solicitor had received a letter from the petitioner's solicitor, copy of which was before the Court and in reply, his instructing solicitor had this morning delivered a letter to the solicitor's petitioner, which Counsel read as follows:

TIE LETTER

"We duly received your letter of 20th April and have noted contents. Our clients are quite prepared to buy your client's shares on the basis indicated by our clients, namely, on the valuation of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, who have had considerable experience in valuing shares of private companies and whose reputation stands too high for any reasonable fear of deliberate or negligent undervaluation. Our clients have every confidence in the integrity of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company and in their ability to arrive at a true valuation."

"This proposal appears to us fair and reasonable in view of the circumstances and we point out that the Resolution for passing article 31 (a), and article 31 (a) itself, were both drafted by Mr Linden, QC, a leader of English Chancery Bar, as being a fair and proper method of buying Mr King's shares and at the same time protecting the Company."

"As it appears, however, that your objection to this method is that the auditors need not give their reasons, we are prepared to agree that they should do so."

"The statement of affairs was filed on the afternoon of 15th April, with extra copies for the petitioner, so that the true financial position of the Company should by now be known to your client."

GRAVE ALLEGATIONS

Mr Winter said that there was one matter to which he must allude in this instance and that was the very grave allegations made against his clients, Messrs Ipekjdian and Seymour. Had the proceedings continued he had not the slightest doubt that all these allegations would have been utterly repudiated.

Mr Bernacchi observed that the case was still proceeding.

Mr Winter said that only if the offer was not accepted.

In view of his Lordship's remarks last Thursday that the costs of the case should be stayed in point of view of the Company, his clients were prepared to submerge their own private interests for those of the Company in order that those costs might be saved. If petitioner saw fit to accept the offer now made.

Mr d'Almeida said that on behalf of the Company careful consideration was also given to his Lordship's remarks and he was instructed to say that they considered the reply given by Mr Winter's clients to be a fair and proper offer.

Planes Diverted

Tokyo, Apr. 22. Airmen of soldiers taking leave in Japan from Korea was suspended for the second time in less than a month today because the planes were needed in another area, presumably Indo-China.

The suspension was taken as a firm indication that the US is pouring war supplies into the Southeast Asia battle.—United Press.

Assaulted Deaf Mute

"I was that drunk I didn't know what I was doing," said stoker mechanic Ronald Cox, of HMS Alert, before Mr Hin-shing Lo at Central this morning when he pleaded guilty to assaulting a deaf and dumb boy.

At this Mr Lo counselled: "If you have so much money to spare come to me and I will tell you how to spend it."

Cox was charged with assaulting Chan Kwok-leung outside Paramount Ballroom on April 17, causing an abrasion to the boy's lower lip.

While defendant was standing in front of the dock Chan was gestulated with his hands. He pointed to Cox, brought his hand to his lips and then pointed to the arresting corporal.

A final sweep of the hand included the magistrate—a silent appeal for justice.

Cox was cautioned and bound over in \$100 for one year and ordered to pay the complainant \$25 compensation.

Falconer Winding-Up Case: Offer To Purchase Shares Is Rejected

An offer to buy the shares of the petitioner on the valuation of Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company was rejected by Mr Brook A. Bernacchi, leading Counsel for J. J. O. King when hearing of a petition for the winding up of George Falconer and Co. (H.K.) Ltd. resumed this morning before the Acting Chief Justice, Mr Justice T. J. Gould in the Supreme Court.

In rejecting the offer, Mr Bernacchi referred to and read a letter written by a member of the firm of Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. to Mr M. W. H. Seymour, and said that in view of that letter "we cannot be expected to have any further confidence that this firm will look after the interests of my client as opposed to the interests of Mr J. B. Ipekjdian who is their primary client."

Mr Bernacchi repeated his offer that Mr Ipekjdian and his client (Mr J. J. O. King, the petitioner) should auction each other out and see who won. Counsel went on to say that he would accept any reasonable or alternative suggestion.

He would perhaps mention—since Mr Winter did not do so—that the offer of the auditors arriving at the valuation should give their reasons met, in his respectful submission, with the objection raised in the course of the opening of the case by Mr Wright, that an expert arriving at a figure and not giving his reasons for his conclusion any aggrieved party was precluded thereafter in raising the matter.

OBJECTION REMOVED

That objection, Counsel submitted, was removed by the offer made in the penultimate paragraph of the letter read to the Court by Mr Winter, which would result in the auditors giving their reasons.

Mr Bernacchi said that he felt it was necessary at the present stage to read to the Court a letter of August 20, 1953, addressed to Mr Seymour by a member of Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company.

An objection on the ground that the letter was a private and confidential one and addressed by an individual not representing the Company and should not be admissible was overruled by his Lordship, subject to the possibility of later excluding it from the evidence.

Mr Bernacchi said that this letter being written by a responsible member of the firm clearly showed that they could not be expected to have any further confidence that the firm would look after the interests of his client as opposed to the interests of Mr Ipekjdian who was their primary client.

Mr Bernacchi then repeated his offer that Mr Ipekjdian and Mr King should auction each other out and following the remarks made by his Lordship, hearing was adjourned until 2.30 p.m. today.

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Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below those for registered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere which in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest posting times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mails can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Philippines, N. Borneo, 5 p.m. By Surface
Mauritius, P.E. Africa & South Africa, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Philippines, 9 a.m. By Air
Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 10 a.m.

Formosa, Japan, Korea, 2 p.m. Indo-China, 6 p.m.
Japan, U.S.A. and Canada, 6 p.m. North Borneo, Australia, New Zealand, 6 p.m.

China, People's Republic, 8.30 a.m. Macao, 9 a.m.

Malaya, Indonesia, 8 a.m. Philippines, 9 a.m.

Thailand, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 10 a.m.

Japan, 6 p.m. U.S.A., Central and South America, 1 p.m.

China, People's Republic, 8.30 a.m. Formosa, 9 a.m.

Indonesia, 1 p.m. Macao, 1.30 p.m.

Malaya, Burma, 2 p.m. China, People's Republic, 5 p.m. Macao, 6 p.m.

SLIM DECREES DISSOLUTION

Paris, Apr. 21. Radio Melbourne today announced that the Governor-General of Australia, Field Marshal Sir William Slim, has issued a decree dissolving the present House of Representatives.

Elections for a new House will take place on May 29.—France-Press.

'What's His Line?' Solution

BOOKING-CLERK
London Express Service.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Oh, George, what a thoughtful birthday gift! Now I can run down and buy a hat, suit and shoes to match!"